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For the Anthology.

THE BOTANIST, No. 15.

(The same subject continued from the Anthology for April.)

" The bright consummate Flower
"*Spirits odorous breathes.*" MILTON.

FLOWERS, says the most learned of poets, *spirits odorous breathe.* On what does this odour depend? The chemists give us this vague answer, that it depends on the *oil* of the plant. But a vegetable distils two kinds of oil, differing very much from each other; the one is *fixed*, the other *volatile*. The *fixed* oil is combined with mucilage; the volatile with the *aroma*, or *spiritus rector* of the plant. The *fixed* oil is found only in the seeds; and is confined almost entirely to those, which have two cotyledons, as flax-seed, almonds, and rape-seed; but the *volatile* oil is found in every part of a plant, except the cotyledons of the seeds, where it never occurs, and is distinguished pre-eminently in the flower.

When we say, that the fine odour of a flower depends on its volatile oil, or that its *aromatick* virtue is contained in it, and is therefore called its *essential* oil, we go not quite far enough.* This essential oil contains something more subtile and active than itself, viz. an exceedingly minute, volatile and scarcely ponderable *spirit*, which, when separated, leaves nothing peculiar in the remaining oil. This is the *spiritus rector* of the old chemists, the predominant, prevailing, paramount or *ruling* spirit of the plant. This spirit, which is inimitable by art, imparts that smell, taste, and medicinal virtue to that particular species of plant, and is found in no other. The fixed oil is innate; but the es-

* " We are so far from being admitted into the secrets of nature, that we scarcely approach the first entrance. We overlook the operations of those invisible fluids, which encompass them; upon whose motions and operations depend those *qualities*,† for which they are most remarkable. "LOCKE on Human Understanding. Vol. II. p. 207.

† *What* Locke *calls* QUALITIES, *some of the ancients called* FORMS.

sential oil is the vegetable œconomy, operating in perfect health, and in full perfection, while drawing its sustentation from the earth, and from the air. The essential oils of plants have their respective characteristicks from these *aroma*, or spirits alone; the volatile oil, serves, in some degree, for enveloping, arresting and preventing a too sudden and copious expenditure of them; while the fixed oil serves only for connecting the solid parts together, like the oil or fat in animals. The difference therefore of these two oils is very wide.

Should any one object, that, by fixing our eyes too intently on the poetical phrase of Milton, we have strayed from the enlightened path of modern chemistry into a thicket of fragrant flowers, and are there stupified and bewildered, * we answer, that it may be so, notwithstanding the limits which we assign to the meaning of the term *spirit*. We mean by it the finest and most subtle parts of bodies; the most active part of matter, with regard to its facility of motion, in comparison with the grosser parts; that which is discoverable by the smartness to the smell, and which rises first in distillation. The name of "spirit" was formerly given to any subtle volatile substance, that exhaled from bodies in a given degree of heat; and by a sort of imaginary analogy, was transferred to the human system; hence the term *animal spirits*, which was ingeniously supposed to reside in the *nervous fluid*, as the *spiritus rector* resides in the essential oil of plants.

If the term *spirit*, or *spiritus rector*, should displease the fastidious critick, we would remind him, that *spirit*, in the German language, is *geist*, or as Juncker has it *gascht*, whence is derived the English word *ghost*, or *spirit*; and hence our fashionable chemical word *gas*, or *gaz*, by which we are to understand "an exceedingly rare, highly elastick, and *invisible* fluid, not condensible by cold." Should the critick persist in refusing his imprimatur to the term spirit, we will compound with him, by giving him, in its stead, the word *quintessence*, by which we mean the specifick essence, the active principle, by the power of which medicines operate. 'Tis the distinguishing part of medicinal simples, which can be separated, in imagination, from the tangible body, leaving its organization entire. To be still more particular. The ancient philosophers and the old chemists conceived that *fire*, *air*, *water* and *earth*, contributed to the composition of all vegetables; to all which was added, a *fifth* thing, or *ens*, which enriched and distinguished the whole, by its own particular efficacy; and on which the odour, taste and virtue of each plant depended: they, therefore, asserted, that each species of plants was made up of *the four* common elements; but to these was added a *fifth*, which, though small in quantity, was the most powerful, efficacious, and predominant of its ingredients: this, therefore, they called the *fifth* essence, or, as expressed in Latin, the *quinta essentia*. The knowledge of *quintessences* was considered, two hundred years ago, as the utmost bounds of chemical perfection. Is not this precisely the case, at present, with the knowledge of *gasses*, or *spirits*?

We have said, that all aromatick plants contain a volatile oil; but this aromatick oil does not reside in the same part in every kind of plant,

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* See the effects of flowers on the human system, when in a confined place, in our thirteenth number.

Sometimes we find it distributed through the whole plant, as in the *Bohemian angelica;* sometimes it exists only in the bark, as in *cinnamon*. *Balm*, *mint*, *rosemary*, and *wormwood*, contain their essential oil in their leaves and stems; while the *Elecampane* and *Florentine iris* deposit it in their roots. All the *terebinthenate*, or resin-bearing trees, have it in their young branches, while the *chamomile* and the *rose* have it in their petals. Many fruits contain it throughout their whole substance, as *pepper* and *juniper*. *Oranges* and *lemons* contain it in their rind or peel.* The *nutmeg tree* bears its essential oil in the nut, and its immediate envelopement. The seeds of the *umbelliferous* plants, such as *fennel*, *cummin*, and *anise*, have the vesicles of essential oil along the projecting lines upon their skin.

The taste of volatile, or essential oils, is hot; but it is remarkable, that the taste of the plant does not always influence that of its essential oil; for the oil of pepper has no extraordinary acrimony; and that which is obtained from wormwood is not bitter: and so of colour, the oil of *red* roses is *white;* the oil of lavender yellow; of chamomile a fine blue; that of parsley a bright green; that of millefoil a sea-green. This is the valuable part of Botany; which, if diligently pursued in this country, will shew the subordinate rank of the nomenclatureship of the science, and the knowledge of the external forms of plants merely. Classifiers have almost led the world to forget the great use and end of Botany. Far be it, however, from the Botanist to speak slightly of the pleasure derived from the sight of an elegant plant. Amidst "*the insatiable variety of nature,*" * few are its productions that can be placed in competition with a beautiful and fragrant flower. The most brilliant gem but dazzles the eye with its splendour; while the blind man is regaled with the fragrance of the rose, the lily, and the jessamine.

The attempt to describe by words what, in truth, requires the faithful pencil of a Flemish painter, may well be deemed a futile task. Who would attempt to describe "*the gay carnation* ?"‡ Even ——— may throw his pencil by, in despair of imitating the *violet* or the *apple* blossom. What colours on the painter's pallet can express the richness of the *Amaryllis foramsissima* or the *Superbia gloriosa*, or the *Dodecatheon* of Linnæus? Who could hope to succeed in the description of the *Strelitzia Regina*,† adorned, as it is, "*with purple, azure, and specked with gold?*"‡ or the *Ixora coccinea*, the cluster of whose flowers are so brilliant, that they resemble burning coals? If the painter can give but a faint resemblance of the *violet*, or the *passion-flower*, or the *Chalcedonian lily*, what would he say, if requested to express, with his colours, the CACTUS GRANDIFLORUS, or *night-blowing Ceres!* This stately flower is a native of Vera Cruz. It expands a most beautiful corol of nearly a foot in diameter; and has twenty stamina surrounding one pistillum. The inside of the calyx is a splendid yellow, the

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* If a lump of sugar be rubbed against the oil-containing-vesicles of the orange, or lemon, it imbibes the volatile oil, and forms a pleasant *oleo-sacharum*, soluble in water.

* Cicero.

† So called by Sir Joseph Banks, in honour of the *Queen of England*. This plant is curiously formed, as well as preeminently splendid.

‡ Milton.

petals of the purest white; but viewing it in front, so as to look into its deep bell, with its long trembling stamina, baffles all description; for its colour, in one shade, is fire-red; and viewed in another light, it resembles the blaze of a furnace, or burning nitre. We may remark generally, that the most splendid flowers are of the shortest duration: thus this grand flower, expands its beautiful corol, and diffuses a fragrant odour, for a few hours in the night; and then closes to open no more. It generally opens about eight o'clock in the evening, and closes before sun rise; and the next day, this short-lived *belle* resembles a dingy, wilted husk of corn. The first time the Botanist gazed at this transient beauty, and saw its sudden change, it was with sensations he never can forget: he confesses, that, in the vast assemblage of flowers that adorn the earth, this flaunting beauty caught his eye, and excited strongly his youthful admiration. Well might the poetical DARWIN say of his "*refulgent Cerea,*"

"Bright as the blush of rising morn she warms
The dull cold eye of midnight with her charms;
There to the skies she lifts her pencill'd brows,
Opes her fair lips, and breathes her virgin vows;
Eyes the white zenith; counts the suns, that roll
Their distant fires, and blaze around the pole;
Or marks where Jove directs his glittering car
O'er Heaven's blue vault, *herself a brighter star*!"*

The Botanist, nevertheless, cannot, will not, suffer her to rival in his affection, his "*blushing* ROSE *veiled in a cloud of fragrance,*"† whose qualities are often disregarded because common. QUEEN of *Flowers!* where is the poet that has not celebrated thy beauties? where the painter that has not aimed to imitate thee? and who that has senses does not wish to take to his bosom "*the fresh blown* ROSES *wash'd in dew?*"‡ Of the beautiful sex we fondly compare the most beautiful to flowers. Were I then to renew my youth, and to live over again; and were I disposed to ransack creation for a comparison——I should compare———But—why this vain wish;—this melancholy reflection!

"No more the summer of my life remains,
My autumn's lengthening evenings chill my veins!
Down the bleak stream of years ——‖
Wing'd on, I hasten to the tomb's repose,
The port whose deep, dark bottom shall detain
My anchor, never to be weigh'd again!"

* Botanick Garden, Canto IV.

† Milton's Paradise.

‡ L'ailegro.

‖ CAMOENS adds here "*by woes on woes,*"—but the "*woes*" of the Botanist are yet to come.

RETROSPECT OF FRENCH LITERATURE.

THE following is a letter from a Prussian nobleman at Paris to his friend at Berlin, written in the beginning of 1789, &c. containing an account of the men of letters residing in the former capital, the academies, the spectacles, &c. &c.

"I am at Paris: the very name

is so connected with great objects, and such delightful recollections, that my ideas are confounded, and I am scarcely able to contemplate the dazzling spectacle, which this superb city presents to my imagination. Since the distant period, when "four oxen paraded the indolent monarch through the streets of Paris," until the splendid age of Louis XIV. when Perault decorated the front of the Louvre ; Le Brun and Le Seur animated the canvas ; Moliere made both court and city laugh at their own expense ; Boileau lashed with his satirical scourge all the bad authors of his time ; La Fontaine aspired to and obtained immortality ; Racine surprised in the inmost folds of the heart the true language of the passions ; Bossuet, after having dragged man along the tombs, elevated him to heaven in a car of fire ; Fenelon, nourished with the milk of the ancients, squandered useful lessons on kings ; or the melancholy, but profound Pascal sounded the depth of our ignorance ; from the Gothick magnificence of Dagobert, until the time when the great Condé wept at the verses of the great Corneille, and when nature exhausted herself, as it were, in assembling men of genius around the throne of Louis, what a series of interesting personages, and memorable events, of which Paris has been at once the cradle and the theatre, the very remembrance of which animates all the streets, edifices, and even the foot paths.

"What friend of humanity can survey the statue of Henry IV. without saluting it with a tender veneration ! what secret horrour must not one experience while passing through the Rue de la Féronnèrie, where this good king was assassinated. The Louvre, the Hotel de Bourbon, le Ceveau, and le Caffé Procope,* the spots on which great events have been acted, and where they have been celebrated, excite our sensibility, and combine the association of moral and local ideas.

"Pardon me this burst of enthusiasm. I return to you, my dear friend : you do not love politicks ; in the arts, you pretend not to be a connoisseur ; literature alone interests you, and it is relative to it that I am now about to write to you.

"The present is scarcely a favourable moment of literature. The French live on their past glory, in the same manner that a merchant without any money lives on his credit. Debauchery, which ever since the time of the regency, occupied the place of gallantry, the precious remnant of the days of chivalry, has equally depraved the taste and the morals. The ladies have become judges of literature, and placed themselves on the throne of criticism ; formed as they are, to seize the delicate shades of sentiment, and decide on sallies of wit, they are not equally calculated to appreciate profound meditation, and the burning energy of real eloquence. What is *grand* therefore, is no longer known ; and what is *pretty* is alone cultivated. The dissipated lives of men of letters bereaves them of the time necessary for great works, while it deprives them of that peculiar turn of mind, which conveys a colour of originality to their writings.

"The writers of the last age, closely following the steps of the ancients, have seized those simple and striking features, which characterise true beauty ; their descendants have wished to excel them, but they have fallen into turgidity and exaggeration.

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* Where the man of letters and men of wit were accustomed to assemble.

"The exact sciences, and especially physicks, have annihilated poetry; general ideas have been substituted in the place of the pleasing fictions of antiquity; abstractions instead of images; maxims and sentences instead of a picture of the passions: such is the character of the poems which we behold born one day, in order to die the next. All these causes have produced the decadency of literature. Who knows what may be the influence of the approaching revolution on the republick of letters? We have constantly perceived, that the agitation of political convulsions has always been followed by great success in the arts and sciences.

"There are a great number of literary men in this capital, who live, and will perhaps ever remain, unknown, notwithstanding their efforts at celebrity. Many of the poets, who compose verses in despite of Apollo, stand a chance of dying from hunger, while they in their turn make their readers die from mere *ennui:* this however is a necessary effect, arising from the progress of knowledge, and the success of genius; one good work produces a thousand monsters in imitation of it. Out of ten theatrical pieces brought forward annually at the theatre Francois, there are not two that have any thing like a complete success. The vanity of these men is intolerable! I listened to the tragedy of one, the plot of which was founded on the massacre of St. Bartholomew, and really thought it passable, until the author hinted to me how superiour it was to that of *Berenice*.

"I have formed an acquaintance with the Abbe Delille,* on whom I wait at nine o'clock, in the morning, as it is necessary to catch him on his rising from bed; for he has no sooner composed five or six verses, than he jumps into his cabriolet, and drives about during the whole day. He is a little frisky man, whose eyes sparkle with wit and fire. He is in a continual agitation; lively, roguish, and at home, the best creature in the world. I had already heard him recite some morsels of his poem on the Imagination, at the Academy, and he has since favoured me with a variety of passages. It is wit rather than imagination that has guided his pencil. This new poem contains more beauties than that called '*Les Jardins*,' but they are beauties of the same kind. A soft melancholy is spread over both these compositions, and each of them is strictly consonant with moral propriety. As he does not commit any of his verses to paper, but carries them all in his *head*, they are thought to be extemporaneous; the fire darting from his eye, the expression of his countenance, and his quick and apposite movements, while he recites them, at once announce and produce enthusiasm, so one is tempted to exclaim, *Deus ecce, Deus!*

"He tells me that he adores the country, and is passionately addicted to solitude; yet he is constantly in the world. A single anecdote will fully depict his malignity. When his Georgicks were published, a sorry writer, called Rosset, happened to compose a poem on agriculture, in which he mentioned Delille with scorn. It was at that time the fashion to make cabriolets out of pasteboard. The Abbe accordingly employed the works of his rival, which were rotting at his bookseller's, and while driving along in his carriage, jocosely exclaimed, 'I tread Rosset

* M. Delille is since dead. His nephew, who is at once a poet and soldier, is the author of the celebrated *Marseillois* march.

under my feet; after which I drag him through the mud!'

"M. Goldoni, the authour of about forty comedies, or Italian dramas, which have had but little reputation among foreigners, and also of an excellent French comedy *Le Bourru bienfaisant*, is a gay old man of eighty, with more good nature than wit, and who, notwithstanding his advanced age, still thinks he has strength sufficient left, to finish a piece entitled *L'Avare fastueux*.

"Roucher, chanter of the Months, appears to be a poet of an amiable character, attached to his friends, and replete with sensibility. At first rated above his real merits, his reputation has since been permitted to decline below them; the praise he once received from the publick, makes him now protest against its present injustice. He is busied on an epick poem; Gustavus Vasa is his hero; the subject is a good one, for it affords great actions, a new scene, and novel manners.

"Roucher lately read to us some admirable verses, written by him, on the death of the interesting and respectable Dupaty, too early snatched away from letters and humanity. He also told me a curious anecdote: The famous work, entitled *Systeme de la Nature*, attributed to so many different persons, is the production of Baron d'Holbach, revised by Diderot. Several persons were in the secret, and what is equal to an eulogium on men of letters, they never allowed the least iota to transpire until after the death of the Baron. D'Alembert considered this book as irrefutable; a circumstance less likely to constitute a panegyrick of the work itself, than a satire on the philosophy of D'Alembert. It appears to me, that every man who draws his arguments from Spinosa, may easily achieve any of the other treatises on atheism.

"I often see a man of a most amiable character, M. Bernardin de St. Pierre. Read his work, entitled *Etudes de la Nature*, and you will discover many interesting passages in it. His physical hypotheses border a little on the chimerical. He deems himself able to refute the Newtonian system, and explain the phenomenon of the tides, by the melting of the polar ice. But those parts in which he treats of the happiness of man, the vices of society, and where he so admirably explains the contrarieties of our nature, are replete with novel ideas, described in excellent language. The man himself affects one by his simplicity; he possesses the manner and the simplicity of a child.

"His misfortunes, and the solitude in which he lives, have given a slight colouring of melancholy to his conversation, which is sage and instructive, without being brilliant or witty. He lives at a distance from the noise of Paris, like a true philosopher, in a little house, which appertains to him, and where he passes away his time in reading, meditation, the cultivation of his garden, and the care of his birds and his bees. He was intimately acquainted with J. J. Rousseau. We lately spent a most delicious day in his company, at the *Pre St. Gervaise*, a walk, a little way out of town, which Rousseau had taken a great fancy to, and whither he often repaired to enjoy his reveries.

"M. de St. Pierre was at Berlin after the Seven Years' War, and was on the point of entering into our service. Berlin pleased him exceedingly; in the third volume of his *Etudes*, he has presented the world with a charming eulogium on

the domestick virtues, and agreeable society of the inhabitants.

"You are too friendly to female authors, to pardon my silence respecting them. I assure you, that they are far more modest and agreeable than those, who, without being able to write, pretend sometimes to know and to decide on every thing. Madame le Comtesse de B***, who has composed some very pretty verses, does not want wit, and speaks but little of herself. The first day I was introduced to her, she was sitting on a sofa, in her cabinet, and had not disdained the cares of her toilette. Around her fluttered a swarm of wits, learned men, real or pretended philosophers, among others, the advocate B****, who pretends that all languages are derived from the *Bas-Breton*, and who boasts of knowing a great number, although he is unacquainted with Greek.

"Shall I speak to you of Mademoiselle de Keralio, who in her history of Queen Elizabeth, seems to have almost abjured her sex in the perpetuity of her erudition, whose amiable vivacity is singularly contrasted with her works? Of the Baroness de Vaize, who has translated the English Plutarch, and composed several original works, which she seems to have forgotten? Of Madame Monnet, author of several charming Oriental tales, and whose renown, perhaps, has not reached you?

"But I pass lightly over all the stars of inferiour magnitude to come to Mademoiselle Clairon,* the *dowager* of the French theatre, and in whose person I seem to behold all the queens of the French tragedies united. She still preserves in her own house, that grave and majestick tone she formerly exhibited on the theatre; and it is comical enough to hear her command her domesticks, as if she were still a sovereign of Carthage. She speaks admirably, perhaps too well for conversation. Accustomed to reign over the stage, she has been spoiled by the applauses of the publick, and the compliments of her adorers; it is no wonder, therefore, that she does not love contradiction. She read a work to us, composed by herself; the subject is "declamation:" and in it she traces, not only the accomplishments but the studies, which an actress ought to pursue, if ambition, and the desire to excel, be the ruling passion.

"Towards the conclusion she points out, with a masterly hand, the differences between the characters of Monimia, Paulina, and Roxana; there is a passage truly eloquent relative to Electra. She recites with such exquisite truth, that I thought I beheld the princess embracing the urn of Orestes; the tears instantly rushed into my eyes. She says that the actress who performs the part of Phœdra ought to assume the air and manner of a sleep-walker; and, in truth, this is the idea excited by the following charming line:

'Ah! que ne suis-je assise a l'ombre des forets!'

"In general, I find this work superiour to that written on the same subject by Engel; there is less depth, indeed, but it is far better fitted for practice.

"I have been thrice present at the sittings of the French Academy. The apartments in the *Louvre* are small, and the situation is inferiour to that of Berlin. The walls are ornamented with the busts of all the great men, who were formerly mem-

* This famous actress is since dead.

bers; and it may be truly said, that the dead are superiour to the living. Several of those who have chairs there at present, are indebted solely to their intrigues. During the life-time of Voltaire, it was necessary to obtain a *brevet* of irreligion, prior to that of an academician; and since that period the candidate found it necessary to bow before the literary despotism, which D'Alembert exercised during the latter part of his life.

"The last day I was present M. Nicolai, president of the chamber of Accounts, was admitted. The benches were occupied by two o'clock, and two thirds of the assembly consisted of ladies. At four the academicians entered in a body, with the new member at their head. I saw Le Sedaine, the herald of the comick opera; Gaillard, the historian of Charlemagne, who has neither inherited the pen of Livy nor of Tacitus. He dared publickly to compliment the debaucheries of Richelieu, under the name of *chivalrous gallantry*. I also saw the fantastical Le Mierre, whose verses resemble the funereal screeches of the bird of night.

"After these appeared the ornaments of the academy, Target and Seguier, two advocates who have consecrated their talents to the defence of justice; Bailly, whose fruitful imagination has created a hyperborean people, and who has decked up an ingenious paradox with the charms of elocution; Boufflers, the favourite of the muses; Saint Lambert, the chanter of the Seasons, and with whom the spring and summer smack a little of the frost of winter; Florian, an agreeable imitator, but not the rival of Gesner.

"M. Nicolai read a discourse, in which he was pleased to term M. de la Harpe, the French Sophocles. In the customary, but ridiculous enlogium on Louis XIV. and Cardinal Richelieu, he spoke of the latter as 'a powerful genius, who had subjugated Europe, France, and even his own sovereign.' M. de Ruhliers, a man of great knowledge and talents, and who contributed not a little to the new law, in favour of the protestants, by means of his remarks on the revocation of the Edict of Nantz, and his connexion with the Baron de Breteuil, made the reply. He afterwards delivered an eulogy on the Marquis de Chastellux, to whom the new academician succeeded, and he justly praised that humanity, which had dictated his charming work, 'On publick Happiness.' This treatise, in which the author endeavours to establish that literature and the sciences are necessary to the welfare of states, gave rise to the 'Phocion' of the Abbe Mably, who, following the principles of the ancient legislators, refutes the opinion, and attributes every thing to morals. The Abbe is not eloquent, but energetick; and his two posthumous works, 'Les Observations sur l'Histoire de France,' and 'Le Traitè des Droits et des Devoirs du Citoyen,' are his best.

"The academy of sciences is far more celebrated than the French academy, more especially since it has enriched itself at our expense, and possesses M. de la Grange. La Place calculates the motions of the celestial bodies, while Lalande and Messier observe them. Fourcroy, De Machy, and Lavoisier decompose terrestrial bodies, and while D'Aubenton and de la Cepede write natural history, Charles enriches natural philosophy by means of new experiments in the same manner as Teisseir and Le Roi confer benefits on meteorology, through the medium of new observations.

"The Academies, however, are no longer what they were formerly, a point of union for the thoughts of great men, and the focus in which were concentrated all the scattered rays of genius, in order to be reflected with greater force. Notwithstanding this observation, the Academy of sciences is far more useful than its elder sister the French Academy, not only on account of the nature of the questions it proposes, the direction and encouragement it affords to talents, but also by the assistance it presents to agriculture and the arts, in facilitating labours of every kind, and inventing or simplifying machines, in order to economize human labour.

"Condorcet, in his quality of secretary, after having adjudged the prizes and proposed new questions, read the eulogy of M. Turgot, brother to the celebrated minister of the same name. The subject did not afford much scope for talent, and the manner in which it was written was far from being interesting. Condorcet has almost entirely abandoned the exact sciences, in order to devote himself entirely to politicks. He is much occupied about publick affairs, and is not a little chagrined at not being a deputy to the national assembly. His physiognomy is noble, and his eye betokens thought. The walls of this, like those of the French Academy, are decorated with busts. One there beholds those of Cassini, the Marquis de l'Hospital, Fontenelle, Maupertuis, La Condamine, &c. I greatly approve of those monuments erected to great men in the very sanctuary of science; it is natural that they should preside over their labours, and become the tutelary deities of the temple. I wish that the academicians of Berlin were also surrounded by Euler, Lambert, Margraff, Sulzer, and that the statue of Leibnitz were placed in the midst of the hall.

"The Louvre is no longer the abode of kings, it is abandoned to the academies, to the men of letters, whom the king permits to lodge there, and to the archives of the crown. This noble edifice communicates with the palace of the Thuilleries by means of an immense gallery. What a pity that the gallery intended to correspond with it has never been constructed, and that, instead of building new castles, they have never finished this superb monument. The celebrated colonnade is superiour to the reputation it enjoys, and never did architecture speak to my imagination with more force. What great and majestick proportions! What noble simplicity! Every time I behold it I am irritated at Boileau, and indignant at the satire with which he unjustly overwhelms the illustrious Perrault. In truth, if genius consists in tracing a grand outline, and in affecting the sensibility, I hesitate between the merits of the author of the satire and those of the author of the colonnade. The gallery of communication between the Louvre and the Thuilleries ought to be employed as a museum. They are now busied in collecting all the pictures of the great masters, and placing the antiquities, and the statues of all the men of genius who have done honour to France.

"Besides the two I have already mentioned, there are a couple more academies in this capital, that of Inscriptions and that of Painting. The members of the former support, encourage, and facilitate the study of the ancients in France. The Abbe Barthelemy, M. Dussault, and some others of them, knew how

to unite what is solid with what is agreeable. The first of these reminds us of the sages of Greece, whom he himself has so admirably described in his Young Anacharsis. He never expected that that work would have become so popular; that Encyclopedia of Greece, that composition of simplicity and elegance appeared to him scarcely to rise above mediocrity; his modesty is equally rare and affecting.

"As to the bulk of the people here, as every where else, the middle class is the best; among them the names of father, son, and wife, are still uttered with respect. It is far otherwise in the fashionable world. My lord and my lady inhabit the two extremities of the house, treat each other like strangers, abandon the sons to the tuition of a mercenary preceptor, and place the daughters in a convent, whence they never come forth, unless to receive husbands from the hand of a parent, actuated by avarice and ambition.

"A certain air of study and affection has for some time occupied the *beau monde*, and even taken possession of the theatres. The new comedies are replete with a sentimental jargon, and the dialogue often aims at being epigrammatick; the art of Moliere seems entirely lost; no more droll incidents, pleasing situations, or original characters.

"The age of great actors is past. La Dumesnil has retired on account of old age; Mademoiselle Clairon no longer makes her appearance in a theatre; Le Kain is dead; Aufrene is in Russia; and Brizard and La Rive have quitted the French theatre. I ought, however, to do justice to the talents of those two great actresses, Mlle. de Raucourt and Mlle. de Gariens. I have seen the former in the characters of Leontina and Aggrippina; in that of Cleopatra she chilled me with affright when she exclaimed:

'Epargne moi l'horreur de mourir à ses yeux!'

"Besides the French theatre, there are six other spectacles. The Parisians, like the Romans of old, seem to demand nothing so much as bread and shows. The Opera is the most perfect representation ever witnessed by me. 'Œdipe a Colonne,' accompanied by the musick of Sacchini, made me fancy myself at Athens, and I actually began to think I was listening to a Greek tragedy. As to dancing, all the world knows to what perfection it is carried here, and that too, by a vain creature, who, pluming himself on his art, exclaims, 'that there never were and never will be but one Frederick, one Voltaire, and one Vestris!' Adieu."

For the Anthology.

OF STONES FALLEN FROM THE ATMOSPHERE; WITH THE RELATION WHICH THEY BEAR TO CERTAIN OTHER STONES, AND TO CERTAIN METEORS. [CONTINUED.]

2. *Of the correspondence between atmospherick stones and a certain description of fire-balls.*

It may be useful, as a preliminary to this examination, to enumerate *some of the chief of the luminous meteors*,

seen in the New England States, and in Western Europe; excluding those dependent on the sun and moon, and those attributable to electricity or volcanos; as well as those whose connection with the earth or its waters, is *close and local.* A subject is often illustrated by means of the things from which it differs, as well as those with which it agrees.

The first article in this enumeration, will be *shooting* or *falling stars*, these being the most frequent among our meteors. They are free from noise; perhaps always descend; are of small comparative elevation; move by day, as well as by night; but are much more frequent in the warm and temperate, than in the cold states of the atmosphere. *Small luminous globes* are next to be mentioned; having a pure and mild white light, with a moderate, downward motion; commonly leaving behind them (like shooting stars, to which they seem much allied,) a faint and transient spotted trace, appearing always to be within a moderate distance, yet never seeming to produce a sound, nor, perhaps, ever depositing any visible remains. *Great streams, or bodies of fire*, also, are sometimes seen by day, as well as by night, without observable sound, a portion, at least, of each of them, being elevated to a considerable height. They inflame at first with rapidity, but seem afterwards devoid of extensive motion. They lie in various directions; the conflagration usually seeming to begin from above, but occasionally, also, from below. They die away gradually, being often observable for a considerable number of minutes by night, though they are necessarily sooner effaced by day. *Fiery whirlwinds* are affirmed to have had existence, by good authorities; and Boscovich speaks of one with a *sulphureous* smell, which travelled with great swiftness from Ostia to and beyond Rome. *Wandering combustible vapours* also have been noticed, which, having no attachment to the place where they originate, move near the earth or water, apparently at times guided by the wind, and if they explode, leave no discoverable traces of themselves, though by the violence of their explosion, or by their inflammable qualities, they sometimes cause serious mischief. But, as it will appear, that neither these wandering combustible vapours, near the surface of the ground or water, nor falling stars, nor small luminous dropping globes, nor greater streams or bodies of fire, nor fiery whirlwinds, (to omit the meteors expressly excluded from our account;) I say, as it will appear, that none of the preceding phenomena bear any relation to our atmospherick stones, it remains, in the last place, to inquire what resemblance to these stones can be found in *fire-balls*. That we may conduct this inquiry impartially, an entire section on this subject will be translated from Musschenbroek; though it will be found full of heterogeneous matter and uncertain principles. It is entitled by him, though perhaps erroneously, *De bolide*. The authorities cited by him, will be seen upon a reference to his work.

"*Of the Fire-Ball.*

"A fire-ball *(bolis)* is a large burning ball, inclining often to a red colour, moving with very great swiftness through the air, and having commonly a *tail*, four or five times as long as the diameter of the globe, and as thick as the globe itself, at its commencement, but decreasing gradually till it terminates in a point. Aristotle calls this meteor *Capra*.

"These globes are sometimes large, but they may be of various sizes. Sometimes their diameter seems one *quarter* of that of the moon, and sometimes (according both to ancients and moderns) it equals that of the moon. Gassendi even says, that he has seen one (which he calls *fax*) more than *twice as large* as that of the moon. When close to the spectator, the diameter has seemed as large as that of a *mill-stone*. Kirch saw one by night, at Leipsick, in 1686, with a diameter equal to *half of that of the moon*; whose light was sufficient to admit of reading by it, and expired gradually. It was noticed also eleven German miles from Leipsick, and had it been seen in both places at the same moment, its elevation must have been six Dutch miles, and its diameter 335 feet. But this is unlikely, for it cannot be depended upon, that the observations were made at the same instant, and the explosion, resembling thunder, would not be noticeable in such case, thunder itself being scarcely heard more than three Dutch miles. The meteor seen by Balbi, in 1719, at Bologna, in Italy, of the apparent size of the *full moon* and of the colour of burning camphor, was much larger, and spread a brightness, equal to that of the rising sun, so as to render visible the smallest objects lying on the ground. It had *four holes from which smoke issued;* many little flames also rose from it, and its tail was longer than seven of its diameters. Upon a comparison of its apparent altitude, as seen from different places, its elevation from the earth must have been not less than 16,000, nor more than 20,000 paces, which makes its diameter 3,560 feet. In the quarters, over which it passed, it left a strong sulphureous smell, and it exploded with noise. Similar effects attended one seen April 8, 1676, by Monterchi, though its height was less considerable, since a noise was heard from its tail, like that from red-hot iron passing through cold water, and it is even said to have burned the *branches of trees*. But, in truth, these meteors are not always very high, for that which was seen in 1749, in the *middle of the ocean*, ran above the surface of the water, towards a vessel, and burst at the distance of 40 or 50 ells from it, with a noise like that of 100 pieces of ordnance, and with so strong a smell of *sulphur*, that the vessel seemed enveloped with it. Part of one of the masts was shivered into several hundred pieces, and another mast was shattered. Of the crew also one was burned, and five others were thrown off their feet.* It often happens, that these bodies separating with a violent noise, completely vanish, without leaving any vestige of themselves. The explosion of all of them is commonly equal to that of great guns. That on February 9, 1750, at Breslaw, was not only accompanied with such a noise, but was remarkable for *turning round on its axis*. Among those which appeared with explosions, in 1753, one was *extinguished* by falling into a marsh.

"In some places, these meteors are *frequent*, so that several have appeared on the same night; and Ulloa tells us, that this is the case in the city of Santa Maria de la Parilla:† but it is not general.

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* It will be seen quickly, that our author gives an erroneous view of this case, which belongs, like various others here noticed by him, to another description of meteors.

† This passage is not to be found in Ulloa's voyage exactly as the author cites it, nor yet in Ulloa's Noticias Americanas.

"It sometimes happens, when these bodies finish their career, *without noise*, that they *leave behind them* a little cloud or smoke, like the remnant of burned matter, being of an ash colour.

"As to the *motion* of these bodies, it is sometimes extremely rapid. The meteor seen by Gassendi traversed a tract of the visible horizon, answering to not less than twenty Italian miles, during the time that he counted fifty pulsations at his wrist. Others again move more moderately, as for example, that in Holland, on August 2, 1750. Some even stand still, or *seem to do so*, for some time in the same quarter of the atmosphere, as Kirch and Wolfe have noticed. In France, (at Ivoy in Berry) Nov. 4, 1753, one appeared* having a long tail, of which the end was not to be seen, and remained suspended twenty five feet above the ground, for some seconds, and then threw out dense smoke, followed by two reports as loud as from a cannon.

"These bodies have always a *light* sufficient greatly to overpower that of the moon.

"As a meteor of this kind spreads a sulphureous smell, it is probably a *cloud*, composed chiefly of sulphureous and other inflammable exhalations, proceeding sometimes from volcanos, when in the act of opening new mouths, or of emitting sulphureous smoke, previous to an eruption, or from an earthquake, which gives vent to some great deposite of sulphur, and puts it in the way of being agitated and carried about by winds. This sulphureous cloud, by effervescing with other exhalations, or from some other cause, takes fire, and the burning matter, when fluid, finding itself in an atmosphere *which yields to it*, is generally seen to assume a globular form, and the quantity of this matter, which is at last suddenly exploded in an inflamed state, occasions a report like that of a bomb.

"The apparent *want of motion* in some of these bodies, seems to arise from a tranquil state of the air, or because *their course is immediately directed towards the spectator*.* Others of them have their motion made more or less rapid, from being affected by the wind.

"The appearance of a tail, may arise, in part, from the remains of combustible materials, which shine in the track where they are left, till they grow cool, or from the immense celerity of the meteor, whose whole path is judged to be luminous, because the eye cannot discriminate the separate points of its appearance, but sees only the sum total of them.

"The *vividness of the light* indicates the substantial nature of the fuel, which feeds the meteor, and it is such as might be expected from sulphur and vegetable oils, mixed with matters from the earth, and perhaps with salts; for the colour of the flame evidently shews that some other substance is concerned besides sulphur.

"The great light, which Ravina described as seen at Faenza, and which Montanari (a mathematician living at Bologna) observed March 31, 1676, most probably arose from a ball of fire. It seemed to the latter to come from Dalmatia over the Adriatick. While crossing Italy,

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* The memoirs of the French Academy, from which this account is taken, say, that the appearance was during the afternoon, *the sun being bright* and warm.

* When a body moves directly towards the spectator, its centre will appear stationary, when across him, its velocity will seem greatest, and between these extremes, there will be every intervening gradation, according to the case.

its course was marked by powerful cracking sounds; over Leghorn its report was like that of ordnance; and when it approached Corsica, it was like that of carriages rattling over a stony surface. It moved at the excessively swift rate of 160 miles in one minute; which, as it surpasses the speed of the wind, must depend on a cause as yet unknown. It was seen in other places.

"The possibility of sulphur becoming volatilized, and yielding a powerful and lasting flame, may be collected from what was noticed by Hallman in Nericia, where sulphureous little hills went into spontaneous inflammation, and emitted flashes and fire.

"Many fire-balls have been seen and described by more recent observers; and none have occurred without some peculiarity worthy of notice."*

Thus far Musschenbroek. His collection of facts is useful; though, like the state of knowledge which prevailed on these subjects at the time of his writing, it is imperfect and confused. Of the defectiveness of his own collection we are bound to give an example in the case which he states as having happened in the *middle of the ocean*. The incident occurred on Nov. 4, 1749, at no very immense distance from Cape Finisterre. Mr. Chalmers, an eye-witness of it, relates, that a ball of blue fire, at noon day was seen on board the Montague, an English man of war, at the distance of three miles, rolling on the surface of the sea, having come from the quarter of the land, and nearly also from the quarter in which the wind had been blowing hard for two days preceding, accompanied with rain, hail, and a large sea. The motion was not so rapid, as to prevent the lowering of the top-sails of the vessel, or an attempt afterwards to hawl up its courses. When the ball arrived within forty or fifty yards, it seemed of the size of a *large mill-stone*, and *rising from the water*, struck the main-top-mast of this large vessel; which it shattered into above one hundred pieces, rending the main-mast, which supported it, down to its heel. The colour and smell of the meteor bespoke sulphur; but no solid materials are known to have entered into its composition. Perhaps we may explain a part of this phenomenon, by supposing that the meteor, while travelling with the wind, became elevated somewhat by the obstruction which the vessel offered to the air in which it floated, and thus ascended, till it struck the mast and parts adjacent. A more intimate mixture of the ingredients of the meteor which was produced by this shock, the effect upon it of the fires then lighted to prepare the dinners of some hundreds of persons, the neighbourhood of pitch and tar with other combustible materials, some electrical operation performed either upon the ball or upon the vessel, or some other unknown circumstance, may have caused, or contributed to cause the explosion. But whatever may be thought of this explanation of the catastrophe, it is clear that Musschenbroek had no right to rank this meteor with *fire-balls with tails*, since it is evident, that it more naturally belonged to the class of *wandering combustible vapours*.†

Before we proceed to draw any general conclusion on the subject of the present section, it is proper to

* See Musschenbroek's *Introductio ad Philosophiam Naturalem*. Tom. 2 pp. 1065, 1068. Quarto. Leyden, 1762.

† See Phil. Trans. for 1750, No. 494.

say a few words respecting the fire-ball in 1758, concerning which Sir John Pringle has assembled much accidental evidence ; being such indeed as sudden and brief appearances like these, commonly alone admit. This meteor became first illuminated over Cambridge in England, and then directed its course over Scotland; and the history of it sufficiently corresponds with what we have just been reading from Musschenbroek, with the exception of such variations as we find are to be expected on these occasions. Some irregularities, for example, disturbed the shape and constitution of the tail ; the light of the body also fluctuated ; the course taken also experienced changes both as to direction and as to speed ; and the meteor seems even to have received a new direction and a new illumination, after it had appeared to suffer a final explosion and extinction. The meteor is computed to have sunk at one time from the height of 100 miles, (the elevation ascribed to it at Cambridge,) down to 32 miles ; and it is afterwards thought to have had a considerable new rise, though this perhaps will be found to be an unnecessary supposition. Its motion is judged by Sir John Pringle to have been at the average rate of 25 miles in a *second* of time. Lastly, in different parts of its progress, it seems to have made small explosions, ending only in sparks or flashes of light previous to the greater explosions. But we shall again have occasion to speak of this meteor.

We shall now then close this section with our proposed parallel between *atmospherick stones* on the one hand, and a certain species of *fire balls* on the other ; referring to the Monthly Anthology, Sir John Pringle's papers,* and other similar relations, for farther elucidation and confirmation of its particulars.

1. The *apparent diameters* of atmospherick stones and a certain description of fire-balls, while in the upper regions of the air, seldom exceed (and more commonly do not equal) those of the sun and moon. 2. *Sparks or flashes of light* may accompany each. 3. Each may have a *luminous tail ;* of which the brilliancy is commonly less than that of the body to which it belongs. 4. Each may move with great *rapidity ;* for however extensive may be the length of the course taken, the whole appearance in the case of those which move rapidly, seldom lasts a minute. 5. The *course* of each may be waving and irregular, whether viewed horizontally or vertically. 6. Each may have *explosions, or a rumbling* from the continuation or echo of smaller or greater explosions.† 7. Each commonly seems to have a *globular* form, while viewed in the *air*, apart from the tail. 8. The direct *light* of each is generally white ; but its brilliancy may fluctuate, and towards the close of its career, it usually fades or inclines to a red colour. 9. The *smell* of sulphureous or other fumes is by no means constant in these meteors, as may be previously conjectured from their general distance.

The two sets of meteors here in question, after all, may be real varieties ranging under one common species ; and if this be true, what

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* See Phil. Trans. for 1759, for two papers (and *no more*) by Sir J. Pringle on this subject.

† The whizzing like that of cannon-shot, from fragments, and the stroke of these fragments on the ground, can only be heard when atmospherick stones explode near the observer.

remains for us will be to find out the character of these varieties. In the mean time, when we see an elevated luminous meteor, of a globular appearance, with a diameter equalling one quarter of that of the moon or upwards, having a rapid course, a motion not perfectly regular, a fluctuating light, and a tail, with occasional flashes or sparks, the whole being followed probably by one or more sorts of noises, we may suspect it to be a stony mass, containing native iron and nickel; and having in it pyrites, globules, and a cement, each of a peculiar kind, with a crust to surround the whole. If the meteor bursts in an open level country, *free from water* and over a firm soil, it is probable that a diligent and skilful search may discover some of its fragments; which will perhaps at first be found to be only *warm*, but also *soft*, or at least capable of being easily broken.

Should it be urged against this conjecture, that the size usually ascribed to fire-balls, when seen in the *air*, is immensely greater than that known to belong to atmospherick stones when fallen to the ground, it may serve as a present reply, that atmospherick stones themselves offer a *similar difficulty*; their computed size on the ground, being no less disproportionate. This is a subject therefore reserved for our miscellaneous observations.

Should it be farther objected, that there are some species of fire-balls which do not correspond with those referred to in the above comparison, it is answered, that in our comparison, a *certain species* of fire-balls alone is noticed; as the other species will be touched upon in the appendix.

[*To be continued.*]

MRS. MONTAGU'S CORRESPONDENCE WITH LORD KAMES.

LORD KAMES TO MRS. MONTAGU.

Edinburgh, March 6, 1767.

"I LOVE to converse with Mrs. Montagu: I love to write to her: Sorry I am that the latter only is in my power. In gratifying my own inclination, however, I shall be so much upon my guard as to avoid persecution; and the plan I propose to follow, is not to write merely from inclination, without having at the same time some good pretext. My pretext at present is to recommend to you a book lately published here, and which probably has reached the shop of Andrew Millar, entitled, *An Essay on the History of Civil Society.* This subject, not less beautiful than interesting, employs some vigour in writing, and much original thought. Besides tracing minutely the history of society from its dawn in the savage state to its meridian lustre of civilization, sciences and arts, it has a further aim, which is, to wean us from selfishness and luxury, the reigning characteristicks at present of all commercial nations, and to restore the manly passions of heroism, generosity, and love of our species. The aim is noble; but the disease, I doubt, is too far advanced to be cured by any characters that can be formed with ink. The book will amuse you,

and you will be obliged to me for putting it into your hands. At the same time, I don't say it is without faults: but these I reserve as a pretext for another letter, when you have perused the book. Let me presume to give you only one advice, which is to reserve the book till your hours of perfect health. It requires too much attention even for Mrs. M. when in any degree indisposed. Your hints, though very slight of want of health, alarm me. You ought to be immortal; because there are some persons, rare indeed, who cannot be replaced; but that soul of yours, active and vigourous, is enough to wear out any body, not to talk of a delicate female constitution.

"Nothing would give me greater satisfaction than a prospect of many subjects for correspondence; and that of recommending books may be both pleasant and profitable; and I am certain it would give me double pleasure to peruse any book recommended by you. It is a great waste of time to read every book at random; and both of us know the valvalue of our time too well to be spendthrifts of it. You have inflamed the curiosity of my spouse, by mentioning the taste of Mr. Adam in ornamenting one of your rooms. You can make her happy in the description, and I know you love to make your friends happy. Yours, with zeal and affection.

HENRY HOME."

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MRS. MONTAGU TO LORD KAMES.

March 17*th*, 1767.

"I AM vain that your Lordship thought me worthy of Mr. Fergusson's work. I had indeed got it from Lord Shelburne, before it was to be sold at the bookseller's, so had read it before I had your letter. The character of the author, and the subject of the book, made me very impatient for it. I approve extremely of Mr. Fergusson in the preference he gives to the magnanimous virtues, above the effeminate and luxurious arts of modern life; and wish he could infuse into us some of that Spartan spirit he admires so justly. At the same time, if he learnt the practice of virtue at Sparta, it was at Athens he was taught to make it doctrine. A Lacedomonian might have said, when he swallowed his black broth, as Alexander did in his ambitious enterprize, What do I suffer that the Athenians may praise me! Had not the latter perpetuated its memory, the temperance of the former, like their broth, had diffused its salubrious effects only through a few individuals, and a few centuries. What had remained of Spartan patriotism for an example to other countries, and other ages, if the same system had prevailed all over Greece? It was happy for them that Xenophon and Plato were not their fellow-citizens; it was happy for the world they were not so. Now, is that state upon a perfectly right foundation where wisdom and virtue are mortal? However, as we Britons are in much more danger of becoming Sybarites than Lacedomonians, it is very meritorious in Mr. Fergusson to endeavour to preserve the native fire of courage and magnanimity in the human breast; for in *these piping times of peace*, like gunpowder at the conclusion of a war, being no longer necessary to combat our enemies, it is wasted in idle fireworks and childish festivity. I cannot express to your Lordship the pleasure and delight with which I read this elegant work of Mr. Fergusson; but as my admiration can

do him little honour, I will give you, who are his friend, the pleasure of knowing it is admired and approved by all persons of judgment in literature, or who have that nobler taste, the love of virtue.

"Your lordship is very good to feel any solicitude about my health. It is far from perfect, but it is better than it used to be. I had for ten years the most terrible state of health imaginable; it has been mending gradually and gently these ten years last past, and is now such as one inured to suffering and sickness thinks delightful, one unused to illness might think miserable. The constant cheerfulness of my spirits has put me on a level, in point of happiness, with the most healthy and robust, so that I think of my lot with thankfulness. I am, my Lord, &c. &c.

E. Montagu."

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LORD KAMES TO MRS. MONTAGU.

Blair-Drummond, April 16, 1767.

"My dear madam,

"I have endeavoured to do Mr. Fergusson a pleasure by your elegant epistle, which is upon the road to him with my compliments, and he will make it most hospitably welcome. I wish I had as good reason to be pleased; but you behave to me like a buskin'd queen acting a capital part in a capital play, without once admitting me behind the scenes into any degree of ease or familiarity. The Professor is the only subject; not a word of my concerns; not a word even of your own, (I suppose because they are mine likewise,) your health, your amusements, the company you keep, the books you read, or whether you be as much regarded in your own country as you are here. I think I perceive you smiling; and you have some reason: you have discovered the cloven foot, a rivalship between the two authors. I confess the fact; but being too lazy to burn and begin again, I proceed in the same tone. When I had the happiness of seeing you in Scotland, I ventured one day to suggest to you a short performance of mine, an *Essay on the Principles of Morality*. But I suddenly dropt the subject, being afraid it was too abstruse and dry for my lively friend. Of late I have taken up a fond conceit, that no subject is above or beyond her comprehension, and therefore I renew my hint; and I have at present an additional incitement, which is, that my friend F. if he has failed any where, is most deficient in that part of his work where he handles the Principles of Morality. My Essay was too small to be printed by itself:* it is prefixed to the second edition of a law-book, termed *Principles of Equity*, to be found at Millar's shop; but which you may borrow from any of your acquaintance learned in the law; for a fine lady would blush to have a law-book make part of her library. I know not whether the principles of this Essay may turn the balance on my side; but in one way I hope always to deserve your favour, which is, by imitating you in every good and social principle, to the best of my power. Yours, &c.

Henry Home."

"P. S. The *Epargne* is arrived, and it is charming. I never saw a

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* The Essay on the *Principles of Morality*, which was prefixed to the second edition of *Principles of Equity*, was left out in the third subsequent editions of that work, the author having republished it in a more complete form, in his *Sketches of the History of Man*.

piece of workmanship to which the term *elegant* can be more properly applied. Mrs. Drummond is delighted with it. Now that I have got your letter upon *ornaments*, I think I have a pretty good stock of materials for an episode upon that subject in the next edition of the *Elements*, in which I shall most impudently borrow from your Ladyship. 'But hark, the cock does crow me hence.' The coach is waiting.'

For the Anthology.

SILVA, No. 40.

JAMES I.

IT is surprising, how many different titles of accession to the crown of Great Britain concurred in the person of this pedantick monarch. By right of his mother, Mary, queen of Scots, grand daughter of Margaret, daughter of Henry VII. (and his heir after the extinction of the direct line,) he possessed the throne of England, and by direct lineal descent from the same queen, that of Scotland. The right of the house of Suffolk, which was doubtless inferiour to that of Mary, but which had a shadow of title by its preference in the will of Henry VIII. likewise centered in him by his father Henry Lord Darnley, heir to that house. He possessed the true right to the throne of England derived through a succession of Scottish kings from Malcolm, who married Margaret, daughter and heir of Edmund Ironside, the last of the Saxon kings; which right had been set aside by the violent usurpation of William the Conquerour. The dominion of Wales had been usurped by Edward I. and from his time united to the English crown; but to this also James possessed the true hereditary title by direct descent from Elizabeth of York, wife of Henry VII. heiress of the house of Mortimer, which house, "by virtue of descent from Gladys, only sister to Llewellyn the Great, the last king of Wales, had the true right to that principality. That nothing may be wanting to complete this multifarious title, it has lately been asserted in a popular work, that by the intermarriage in ancient times of the royal families of Ireland and Scotland, James possessed a legal title to the throne of that dependant kingdom. So numerous were the tributary streams that swelled the title of royal blood in the veins of James I. Strange that a monarch, so rich in nobility, instead of ennobling his rank by the defence of invaded rights and the punishment of audacious foreigners, should have distinguished himself only as the assertor of witchcraft, and the enemy of tobacco.

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FLORIAN.

THIS writer has been called the Goldsmith of France. He resembles him in a beauty of style, calculated for extensive popularity, though not in similitude of manner. Goldsmith pleases by an unaffected simplicity, which touches on common scenes and objects, heightening

beauty and veiling vulgarity. Florian has the happy talent of applying the same natural simplicity to the description of those modes of life, which, under the touch of less judicious or less fortunate pens, have swelled out absurdity and bombast. Goldsmith has entered the trodden paths of life and selected the pleasant, the simple and the elegant, adorned for the relish of every taste; Florian has risen to the regions of chivalry and fairy land, and culling the splendid, the noble and the romantick, has presented them divested of style and circumstance, that often stamp them with ridicule. Some of his romances are in a style nearer to poetry than seems practicable in our language without affectation; yet either the genius of the French tongue or the judgment of the writer has divested them of that odious quality. Perhaps his advantage may be attributed in part to the peculiar aptitude of the French language for delicate sentiments and feelings. Some of the tales in the Adventurer and Spectator have no small excellence of this kind, but we have no works in our language that can be opposed to "Guillaume Tell" and "Estelle." Our shepherds and shepherdesses degenerate into gaping moralists and snivelling lovers. "Thyrsis," says Goldsmith, "is one of the most insipid fellows I ever knew, and as for Corydon I do not desire his acquaintance."

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HORACE.

No author seems to slide so easily as Horace into the dress and air of a different age and nation. By the introduction of Pope, he is perfectly at home among the nobles of the English court, and lashes them even with touches of discrimination. Boileau has given him the flippancy of a Frenchman, and Swift the sententious brevity of a fabulist. "Omnis Aristippum decuit color." Imitation has exhausted its various forms on every part of his productions. This is a true, though perhaps not a favourable introduction to the following; what is done so often and so easily the reader may expect should be done better.

Imitation of Horace. I. XX.

Vile potabis, &c.

To J. G. C.

With me the apple's sprightly juice
Shall greet your taste, prepar'd for use
With no incurious hand;
The corks assum'd their watchful post,
What time from India's distant coast
You reached our native strand.

Dear Joe, methinks the joy I trace,
That brightened every friendly face,
To welcome you at last.
How swift from Cam, of rushy bed,
To silver Swamscut's reedy head,
The joyful tidings past.

Rich wines you drink of various names,
With courtly D—— and noble A——
When cheerful guests resort;
But simple cider here you find,
To garnish off a friendly mind,
At most a glass of port.

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SUBTILTY OF THE LAW.

THE grave digger's argument upon the funeral obsequies of Ophelia was intended by Shakespeare to burlesque the law. One of the clowns is a great argufier, and justifies the verdict of the coroner's inquest upon the daughter of Polonius, by saying, "she drowned herself in her own defence: it must be *se offendendo*, for here lies the point; if I drown myself wittingly, it argues an act, and an act hath three branches: it is, to act, to do, and to perform: argal, she drowned herself wittingly." The irresistible force of this conclusion,

he thinks himself able to increase by explanation. "Here lies the water; good: here stands the man; good: if the man go to this water, and drown himself, it is, will he, will he, he goes; mark you that: but if the water come to him, and drown him, he drowns not himself: argal, he, that is not guilty of his own death, shortens not his own life."

On this Sir John Hawkins has given us a note worth transcription. "I strongly suspect that this is a ridicule on the case of Dame Hales. It seems, her husband Sir James Hales had drowned himself in a river, and the question was, whether by this act a forfeiture of a lease from the dean and chapter of Canterbury which he was possessed of, did not accrue to the crown; an inquisition was found before the coroner, which found him *felo de se*. The legal and logical subtilties, arising in the course of the argument of this case gave a very fair opportunity for a sneer at *crowner's quest law*. A great deal of subtilty was used to ascertain whether Sir James was the agent or the patient; or, in other words whether *he went to the water* or *the water came to him*. The cause of Sir James' madness was the circumstance of his having been the Judge, who condemned Lady Jane Grey."

Professor Christian in his edition of Blackstone's Commentaries, has quoted from Plowden part of the argument, if so it may be called, of the Chief Justice, (Sir James Dyer) which proves himself as mad as the defunct at least; "The felony, says he, is attributed to the act; which act is always done by a living man, as my brother Brown said; for he said Sir James Hales was dead; and how came he to his death? It may be answered, by drowning; and who drowned him? Sir James Hales; and when did he drown him? In his life time. So that Sir James Hales, being alive, caused Sir James Hales to die; and the act of the living man was the death of the dead man. And then for this offence it is reasonable to punish the living man who committed the offence, and not the dead man. But how can he be said to be punished alive, when the punishment comes after his death? Sir, this can be done no other way but by divesting out of him, from the time of the act done in his lifetime, which was the cause of his death, the title and property of those things which he had in his lifetime."

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PICTURES.

The value of pictures is sometimes exaggerated by amateurs, and will be always thought to be so by those who are ignorant of the subject. Yet many a person will pass heedlessly by a painting of Raphael or Corregio, who will guard with peculiar care a mishapen piece of plate, merely because it is two or three centuries old; surely then, it is excusable to appreciate with enthusiasm an original work of some great genius whose beauties time has respected and even increased. The pleasures attendant on the possession of good paintings, when once felt, will be sought for; and it is to be hoped, that they will daily become less rare among us. The biography of pictures, if it may be so termed, enhances their interest; and the perilous vicissitudes, which some of them have undergone, excite almost as much curiosity, as the dangers to which "adventurous damsels" have been exposed from their own beauty, the attacks of barbarous men, and the devastations of time.

Mr. Angerstein of London, has

a small but precious collection of pictures, the principal of which is the *Resurrection of Lazarus*, by *Michael Angelo*, one of the most famous pictures in the world: its history was related to me by Mr. West. The Cardinal de Medicis obtained leave of the pope to have two pictures painted for him by Raphael and Michael Angelo. To the former he gave the subject of *the Transfiguration*. Raphael did not live to finish it entirely, but it is universally esteemed the most perfect work of art now existing, and it forms the first treasure of the gallery of the Louvre. The subject, given by the cardinal to Michael Angelo, was the *Resurrection of Lazarus*; he sketched the picture, which was finished by his scholar Del Piombo. When the cardinal became pope, he made a present of it to a convent in a city of the south of France, of which he had been bishop. When the regent Duke of Orleans was forming his collection, he purchased it, and it made the chief ornament of that celebrated Gallery, which was broken up in the beginning of the French revolution, and its most valuable works carried to England. when this picture was bought by Mr. Angerstein.

A very famous picture of Corregio experienced many adventures, and perished miserably. After the taking of Prague, in 1648, Gustavus Adolphus transported two pictures of Corregio, which he found in that city, to the palace at Stockholm, a Leda, and a Diana. At his death they were totally neglected, and remained so during the minority of queen Christina. They were found, after much search had been made for them, serving as blinds to the windows of the royal stables. They were restored in the best manner possible, and the queen who knew how to appreciate their merit, carried them with her to Rome. After her death, they passed into the hands of Don Olivio Odeschalchi: he preserved them with great care, but his heirs sold the greater part of his collection. These pictures were bought by the regent Duke of Orleans. At his death they passed to his son, and he with a severity, the opposite of his father's dissoluteness, ordered the picture to be cut to pieces in his presence, and particularly burnt the head of the Leda. The remnants of this masterpiece were gathered together, and became the property of M. Pasquier. He proposed to Carlo Vanloo and Boucher to restore the head, but their modesty made them decline it. Another painter at the time little known, named Deslyen, who had studied Corregio attentively, undertook the work and succeeded. Duchange made a very good engraving of this picture, but having grown devout towards the close of his life, he repented having engraved it, and destroyed his plate.

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EPITAPHS.

From whatever it proceeds, whether from vanity or from pride, from the hope of being remembered with gratitude and tears of mingled joy and sorrow, or from a secret fear of being forgotten or recollected only with contempt or indignation; the fact is certain, and cannot be denied, that every man is anxious to leave inscribed on his tombstone such a character, as if it neither involves nor displays many eminent virtues, may at least conceal or palliate his vices. I would not willingly incur the blame arising from the suspicion of being uncharitable, but it is my full and firm belief that ma-

ny, whose lives were probably disgraced by paltry designs or sinister motives, are after death praised (and the marble does not, only because it cannot, blush to record the lie) for the greatest elevation of mind, and an incorruptible integrity of heart. Others, who perhaps had published acrosticks in a newspaper, or had written or selected charades and riddles for a magazine or an almanack, are immortalized in their epitaphs, as poets little inferiour in all the powers and faculties of genius, to Homer or Virgil. Many a man, whose gloomy countenance perhaps never beamed with that dawning, brightening smile, which precedes and accompanies benevolence opening into action, and discharging its full and overflowing kindness in the relief of sorrow and of want, is, when his cheek can no longer redden at such wanton violation of truth, celebrated for a liberality which knew no limits, and for a tenderness which disdained all partiality. Nay, instances there are, and I am sorry they are not a few, of those, who, when cold and mouldering into dust, have whispered from their graves, that though they lived its votaries, and died the martyrs of intemperance, their characters were mistaken, for somebody has discovered and eternized the discovery on the slab which covers these consuming bodies, that sobriety was the moving spring and directing principle of their whole conduct.

I once knew, and while reading the abominable falsehood in his epitaph, I could not stifle, I did not even attempt to qualify with pity, the indignation which an open and flagrant outrage of general opinion and sentiment never fails to excite; I once knew a libertine and a deist, whose epitaph, written in the mere and unadulterated style of frontless panegyrick, extols the purity of his morals, and the soundness of his faith. But that epitaphs are always, without a single exception, false and undeserved, I am unwilling to believe; nay, I am persuaded that of monumental inscriptions, many are true and really due to the memory of the deceased. To exemplify the foregoing remark in its greatest latitude, perhaps the epitaph of Alexander VI. written by Sannazarius, is the happiest instance I could possibly adduce.

Fortasse nescis cujus hic tumulus fiet,
Adsta viator, ni piget.
Titulum, quam Alexandri vides haud illius
Magni est, sed hujus qui modo
Libidinosa sanguinis captus siti
Tot civitates inclitas,
Tot regna vertit, tot duces letho dedit,
Natos ut impleat suos.
Orbem rapinis, ferro, et igne funditus
Vastavit, hausit, eruit;
Humana jura, nec minus cælestia,
Ipsosque sustulit Deos;
Ut scilicet liceret, heu scelus, Patri
Natæ sinum permingere,
Nec execrandis abstinere nuptiis
Timore sublato semel.

There is nothing extravagant or irreverent in Pope's epitaph on Sir Isaac Newton; and to Dr. Samuel Johnson, though nothing but his name is found on the marble, which protects his ashes, it would be impossible in an epitaph to ascribe a prouder sublimity of piety and virtue, or a wider extent of learning and genius, than he actually possessed. The excellence however of an epitaph consists not in the swell of periods, or in a certain varying and almost enchanting melody of cadence, which is sometimes heard, but in that severe, though elegant simplicity, which insensibly and irresistably connects in melancholy contemplation, the author of the ep-

itaph, with the subject of the inscription. Johnson's Latin Epitaph on Goldsmith illustrates the preceding observation, and I know not, whether, if the round robin, addressed to Johnson, and requesting that a translation into English might be inscribed on Goldsmith's tomb had attained its object, we should not feel our love for Goldsmith cool, and our reverence for Johnson diminish. It would hardly have been possible for him, who was acquainted with all the delicacies, as well as with every energy of his native tongue, to have expressed in the vernacular idiom, such tender, such vivid affection ; and it is undeniable, that without appearing to flatter, he could not have bestowed such manly encomium as he has expressed and bestowed through the medium of a language, at once foreign and obsolete. And here I may be permitted to protest against that swollen and bloated kind of panegyrick, which always disgraces, instead of honouring (though such without doubt, is in every case its sincere intention) the character of departed virtue or beauty. The memory of Hector or of Helen would not be reverenced with a deeper awe, or cherished with a warmer love, if Chandler or Stuart had found the tombs of both ; and if of the inscriptions which lead to the discovery, the first had extolled the son of Priam as virtuous beyond the reach or hope of imitation ; and the second had represented Paris' mistress as too beautiful to fear a superiour or an equal, from such false and fulsome praise, if it existed, we should be strongly inclined to suspect, that Hector was no better than he should have been ; and as for Helen, that though she was probably a belle in her day, yet that setting aside her reputation as an arrant jilt, she had very little beauty to spare.

One of the finest, because it is artlessly simple, of commemorative poems, though I do not find that it ever appeared as an epitaph, is Ben Jonson's Epigramme on his first son. As it is full of tenderness, and may be safely imitated as a model of this kind of writing, no apology is necessary for subjoining it entire.

Farewell, thou child of my right hand and joy ;
My sin was too much hope of thee, lov'd boy,
Seven years thou wert lent to me, and I thee pay,
Exacted by thy fate on the just day.
O, could I lose all father now. For why
Will man lament the state he should envy ?
To have so soon 'scap'd world's and fleshes rage,
And if no other misery, yet age ?
Rest in soft peace, and, ask'd, say here doth lye
Ben Jonson his best piece of poetrie,
For whose sake henceforth all his vowes be such,
As what he loves may never like too much.

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USAGES AT FRENCH TABLES.

M. Delille, the French poet, being one day at dinner at Marmontel's, related something which he had been reading upon the fashions observed at table in genteel companies. They were speaking of the multitude of little things of which a plain, honest man must not be ignorant if he would avoid being ridiculed by the world. "They are innumerable, says M. Delille; and what is most provoking is that all the genius in the world is not sufficient to divine these important trifles." He added, the abbe Cosson, professor of belles lettres in the college Mazarin, was lately speaking to me of a dinner where he was a guest, some

days ago, in company with some gentlemen of the court, noblemen, Marechals de France, &c. at the abbe Radouvilliers at Versailles. I bet, said I, that you made a hundred mistakes.--How, says the abbe, with some passion ; it appears to me that I behaved like other people.—What presumption! I venture to say, that you behaved like no other person at table. But let us see : I will confine myself to the dinner ; and in the first place, what did you do with your napkin, when you placed yourself at table?—With my napkin ? why—what every body else did ; I unfolded it, spread it out, and tucked one corner into my buttonhole.—Ah, my dear, you were the only person that did so ; nobody shows his napkin ; he lets it remain in his lap. And how did you eat your soup ?–I took my spoon in one hand, and my fork in the other.–Your fork, bless me ! nobody takes a fork to eat soup: but let us go on. After your soup, what did you eat?—A new laid egg.—And what did you do with the shell?—Like other people, I gave it to the waiter.—Without breaking it?—Without breaking it. Dear me! One never eats an egg, without breaking the shell ; and what after your egg?—I asked for some *bouilli*.—*Bouilli!* Nobody makes use of this expression ; they ask for beef, and not for bouilli ; and what next?–I asked the abbe Radouvilliers to send me a piece of a fine fowl.—Oh dear ! A piece of fowl ! You should have asked for *poulet*, capon, or *poularde ;* they never speak of fowls except in the back yard. But you say nothing of the manner in which you asked for drink. —I asked, as every one does, for Champagne, for Bourdeaux, of those who had it near them.—You must know that they ask for *vin de Champagne, vin de Bordeaux*. But tell me somthing of the way in which you eat your bread. Like others, to be sure ; I cut it properly with my knife.—Alas ! They break their bread, never cut it. But let us proceed. Your coffee, how did you take it ? Eh ! Like other people, certainly ; it was hot, and I turned it, a little at a time, from my cup into my saucer.—So, so ; you did then what nobody else did ; for every one drinks coffee out of the cup, and never out of the saucer. You see then, my dear Cosson, that you did not say a single word, nor do a single thing, which was not unfashionable. The abbe, continued M. Dellille, was confounded. He was employed for six weeks, in inquiring of every body he met about these polite usages which I had remarked to him. M. Dellille himself was acquainted with them by one of his female friends, and had long found himself ridiculed in the world, while he did not know how to eat and drink in the true mode.

For the Anthology.

ORIGINAL LETTERS;

From an AMERICAN TRAVELLER in EUROPE, to his friends in this country.

LETTER NINETEENTH.

Rome, Dec. 8, 1804.

MY DEAR SISTER,

I HAVE said a great deal about *baths*, and *aqueducts*, and *arches*, and *mausolea*, and *theatres*, and *columns*, and *obelisks*, much more to my own satisfaction, I fear, than to that of my friends ; but I think they must

have at least been convinced of one truth, that the Romans exceeded all other nations in the splendour and magnificence of their publick works. It was not to be expected, that a people so proud of rearing monuments of glory to successful heroes, should be less solicitous to pay the noblest tributes to the gods, whom they ignorantly worshipped. The Romans, always a superstitious, were, in the fairest periods of their history, a sincerely *devout* and moral people ; for I must honour with the name of devotion, that respect even for false gods, which is accompanied with purity of morals, when the persons who exercise it have no means of enlightening themselves : I pity their ignorance and delusion, but I honour their respect for their own religion so long and so far *as it is sincere*. No man can read the beautiful injunctions of Virgil to the husbandmen to address the gods before they begin to sow, or to reap the yellow harvest, without admiring the pure, though mistaken piety, which breathes throughout his beautiful lines on this topick. That their religion was an extremely bad one, cannot be denied ; and it produced the effects that might naturally be expected from a system so corrupt. Leaving however these reflections, which the revelation of a pure and undefiled religion enables us to make, I will only remark, that the Romans exhibited all their taste for grandeur and expense, in the temples which they raised in honour of their gods. The multiplicity of the gods in the Roman mythology, and the variety of their supposed attributes, gave rise to a correspondent number and variety of edifices.

To give you a detailed description even of the ruins of those which remain, would be to insist on your commencing antiquary, and entering upon the career of Madame Dacier. It will be sufficient to say, that Rome is yet full of remains, more or less mutilated, of ancient temples.

Wherever they were so perfect as to admit of it, they have been converted into churches. The temples of Jupiter Capitolinus, of Minerva, of Fortuna Virilis, of Vesta, of Romulus and Remus, of Pudicitia, of Hercules, and many others, are among this number. Of others, only single columns or façades more picturesque and beautiful are yet left to us. These are innumerable. The most striking are those of Jupiter Tonans, Jupiter Stator, Antoninus and Faustina, of the temple of Concord, temple of the Sun, of Juno, and of Peace.

The most beautiful temple, however, which remains, is that which was devoted to all the gods, and was for that reason called the Pantheon. This building is the most perfect model of architecture in the world, and is entire. It is now, with no material change, converted into a church, called the Rotonda. It was erected by Agrippa, in the time of Augustus Cæsar, when the fine arts were at their meridian at Rome. It is perfectly round, and its roof is formed like the dome of the state house at Boston. Its proportions are the most beautiful that can be conceived of. *Not a pillar* to support its extensive roof projects from the sides more than a few feet: All the centre is supported by the art and skill of the mechanick.

It has not a single window in it, and yet from a small aperture in the roof, not injurious either to its beauty or strength, it is perfectly and agreeably lighted. This window, if it may be so called, has never been glazed, it is and has been open for almost 2000 years, without injuring the edifice. On the whole we must

acknowledge, that, though infinitely inferiour to St. Paul's in size, or St. Peter's in splendour, it exceeds them both in simplicity and grandeur. What gives the ancient edifices a vast superiority over the modern, is the nobleness of their pillars. Not content with introducing the different styles of architecture, which moderns have never been able to improve, they chose to have their pillars correspondent to the grand simplicity of their architecture. For a thousand years, the Mediterranean and the Archipelago must have groaned under the weight of the vast masses of marble, alabaster, porphyry and granite, which the Romans transported to Rome. Can you believe it? No potentate of Europe can shew such pillars in his publick works, as many common churches of Rome can boast. The French have robbed Rome of three or four, or perhaps a dozen, which they erect not as part of any building, but as single objects of admiration; and they are only the *smallest* of the Roman pillars, which they could more easily transport. Modern Rome owes all these noble objects to the industry and enterprise of the ancient inhabitants. Even *St. Peter's* is not finished with marble columns, which decorated, I believe, every ancient temple. So far as the ancient pillars could be procured, St. Peter's is decorated with them; after which, oh baseness! they have covered brick pillars with stucco painted in imitation of marble.

After these general remarks, I presume none of my friends, who have encountered the fatigue of reading my letters, can doubt, that a man of taste would prefer Rome to any other city in the world for a *short residence* ONLY, and that he would equally prefer the antiquities of Rome to all its modern beauties, which, in truth, are only borrowed. For though Rome has more superb churches, and more magnificent palaces than any, or, in my opinion, all the cities of Europe, yet she owes it all, with *one* exception, to the industry of her ancient inhabitants; the antiquities contained in the modern edifices constitute their richest treasure.

Is a modern palace elegant? Is its architecture beautiful? You will find its model antique, its pillars dug up out of the ruins of some ancient temple, and its façade ornamented with beautiful bas reliefs, which owe their restoration to the modern *spade*, rather than to the chisel.

Are their houses well furnished? You will find assembled the works of Grecian and ancient Roman artists, statues, sarcophagi, urns, and vases.

I have made one exception in favour of the moderns; it is an important and honourable one, their paintings: they are numerous; indeed, they are innumerable, excellent, *invaluable*. I may say, I think, invaluable, when I tell you that it is said that a prince who has ten or twelve large rooms filled with originals, sold *four* to Prince Lucien Bonaparte, for 150,000 Spanish dollars.

The description of Rome is more arduous, and more fatiguing than the examination of it. I wish the reading of it may not be equally so. I have concluded my remarks on the great antiquities of Rome, and I now pass to the beauties, which distinguish modern Rome from the other cities of Europe. These beauties are its churches and its palaces and its villas. Of the churches of Rome one may say *generally*, without fear of contradiction, that they ex-

cel those of *any other*, or of all the other cities of Europe. There are not less than thirty or forty rich in architecture, marble, statuary and paintings. I shall not notice any but the most remarkable. St. Maria Maggiore is one of the oldest and most splendid, and, in my estimation, most beautiful churches of Rome. Its roof is square, divided into compartments, and ornamented with gilded stucco, in a style of magnificence known only in Italy and France. Its pillars are all of a most beautiful and singular white marble. Its altar is rich in a great variety of costly marbles and precious stones. It has like all the great Roman catholick churches, separate chapels within the body of the church. Two of these, built by two popes, Paul V. or pope Borghese, and Sextus V. two of the most distinguished pontiffs, are very superb. That of Paul V. called the Paulina, has two magnificent tombs in it, erected in honour of two dignitaries of that family, and the back part of one of the tombs is lined with a single piece of lapis lazuli (a precious stone of a deep blue colour) sixteen feet high and twelve wide.

Opposite to it is the chapel of Sixtus V. called Sixtina, which excels the other in splendour. This chapel (only an eighth part of the whole church) is said to have cost the pope 800,000 crowns, or more than four times the expense of the state house in Boston. The great events of the life of this pope are represented in basso relievo in marble. They exhibit in this chapel what they pretend is the original manger of Bethlehem, in which our Saviour was born. The church, on the whole, is a most splendid and elegant edifice.

The church of St. Giovannia, in Laterano, is the oldest church in Rome, and, as they pretend, in Christendom. It has been rebuilt by the later popes, and is now the second in point of splendour in the city. Its front or façade is most magnificent, and alone cost 400,000 crowns. Its interiour is ornamented with the richest marbles. Among the others, are twenty-four columns of verd antique, a rich species of Egyptian marble, taken from the temple of Jupiter. There are two superb brass columns, which they assure you were taken from the palace of Pilate in Jerusalem. They shew you the original table, on which the last supper was served, as they pretend, and the very well where our Saviour encountered the Samaritan woman; the curb of which they have transported hither. But aside from the puerilities of catholick superstition, this church abounds in works of taste in architecture, sculpture, and painting.

The church of St. Paul's just without the city, is most extensive and magnificent. It is 780 feet in length, and 260 in breadth, and of course, larger than any church in the world out of Rome. It is supported upon four rows of pillars of superb marble, to the number of one hundred, said to be taken from the mausoleum of Adrian, or, as some writers say, the baths of Constantine. It is ornamented with the portraits of all the popes, at the head of whom, they take care to place St. Peter.

The church of St. Gregory is ornamented with some beautiful fresco paintings by Guido and Domenichino, a stamp of one of which I shall send out to America. The church of the Capucins is rendered famous by a single piece of Guido's,

representing the angel St. Michael chaining the prince of darkness. A single eminent piece is capable of giving celebrity to a church throughout Europe. The Transfiguration of Raphael was known to all the world, and it was the first object of the cupidity of the French, when they seized Rome. Transferred to Paris, it makes the brightest ornament of the Louvre, to see which *alone*, amateurs would make the tour of Europe.

The church of the Madonna della Vittoria, is a rich superb edifice, famous for two statues of the celebrated Bernini ; one representing St. Theresa in the ecstasy of divine love, and the other, St. Joseph in his dream. They are both exquisitely wrought.

But it would be too tedious to enumerate only half the *great* beauties which are to be found in the churches of Rome, so we will quit the subject with a slight notice of that wonder of Europe, the cathedral of St. Peter's. This edifice, the largest, most magnificent, and confessedly on the whole, the most perfect in the world, responds in almost every part to this high reputation. The area in front of it is the largest and most striking, I have ever seen. It is ornamented with two immense corridors, consisting of four rows of columns of astonishing extent and size. In the centre of the area is the largest obelisk in Rome ; and on each side of it, are two of the noblest fountains in Europe. The water rushes out of them with impetuosity, and forms a magnificent jette d'eau correspondent to the grandeur of the edifice.

The building and all its appendages externally are built of a free stone of a plain but excellent light brown colour. As you approach it, the building appears small, not above half the size of St. Pauls, in London. This Dr. Moore thinks a fault, and I agree in the opinion, because grandeur and sublimity were the objects intended to be attained ; and though the artist may have proved *his skill* in making the proportions so fine as to diminish its apparent size, yet I think he would have done more wisely, to have made its real grandeur and vast proportions visible to all. It is however true, that it is only when you measure or examine, that you find its almost *incredible size*. Its length is 722 feet, its height 432, and its width 496 in its largest points. It is therefore nearly one third larger than St. Pauls, and of course bigger than any church in Europe.

But its size is the smallest part of its wonders. The elegance, the costliness, the richness of this edifice in the interiour is beyond belief. It is filled, *though not crowded*, with statues, bas reliefs, tombs, paintings and pictures in Mosaick.

It requires two days to examine with care and attention the various beauties of this church. Almost every great artist from the time of Michael Angelo, who planned and erected the cupola, to the present day, has contributed something to enrich it.

There are not less than twelve or fifteen superb monuments to different popes, all executed in a masterly style.

The fine paintings of Raphael and Domenichino having suffered by the dampness of the walls, they have renewed them in Mosaick, in such a style, as that it would be impossible for any but an artist to distinguish them from paintings. These large Mosaicks are the most wonderful objects of modern art. On

the whole, a volume has been written upon the subject of St. Peters alone, and less than a volume would be insufficient to give a correct idea of it. It leaves on the mind an impression of grandeur in comparison with which all former and future objects of the same nature sink into contempt.

I have seen no calculation of the cost of St. Peters, but from what I have heard of some details, it is my opinion that it has amounted to sixteen millions of dollars at least.

POETRY.

ORIGINAL.

THE MARINER.

THE storm was spent; and, frowning waste and wild,
In shoreless pomp the darken'd ocean lay,
Nor glimmering moon the gloom of night beguil'd,
Nor sound proclaim'd the dirge of absent day.

Plung'd in the horrours night and silence give,
Unfathom'd depth, and dark and shoreless view,
See, spent with toil, and struggling yet to live,
The short survivor of a stranded crew.

Faint is the arm, whose agonizing throw,
With wearied effort feebly beats the wave,
And faint the panting, strangled voice of woe,
That breathes to heav'n the hopeless prayer to save.

For once on high the courier of the day,
Has wheel'd his course unpitying o'er his head,
Since, urg'd on rocks, the fragile bark gave way,
And plung'd him helpless in the ocean's bed.

Oft from afar the dim discover'd land,
Or distant sail has met his fancy's eye,
Oft from his bursting voice and waving hand,
Has slowly sunk or pass'd unpitying by.

And oft despair, and anguish, and alarm
Have sunk him hopeless to the depths below,
As oft the pang of death has nerv'd his arm,
And bade him toil for still protracted woe.

Yet soon, as nature's flame is glimmering lees,
The pains of death repeated shall be o'er,

That breast, that heaves tumultuous with distress,
Full soon shall think of life and home no more.

No pitying voice his distant friends shall tell,
For them what pangs his dying bosom wrung,
Nor speak, when time has struck his funeral knell,
The last fond prayer, that linger'd on his tongue.

Sufferer, farewell! no mortal eye was near
To see thee sink expiring in the wave,
No ear was there thy groan of death to hear,
No hand to mark thine undistinguish'd grave.

Yet for thy sake along the winding shore,
The poet's harp shall raise its mournful strain,
Thy matchless sufferings plaintive shall deplore,
And shield thy fate from dark oblivion's reign.

E.

EPIGRAMS, FROM THE ITALIAN.

NEGRI capelli e bianca barba poi,
Ha Gabbriello. La ragion ne vuoi?
Debbe aver travagliato Gabbriello
Colle ganasce più che col cervello.

PANANTI.

While Gabriel's chin salutes the sight,
Deck'd in a beard of hoary white,
His hair still black remains.
The thing is strange, but clear the cause;
Much has been wrought by Gabriel's jaws,
But little by his brains.

I due Medici.

Fausto e Publio han rinome in medicina,
L' uno e gran parlator, l'altro ha dottrina;
Vedi il primo in carrozza e tutti a lati,
E il secondo trottar sudando a piedi
Sai perche? questo pagan gli ammalati,
Quello sempre pagato e dagli eredi.

ROLLI.

The two Physicians.

Faustus and Publius both renown'd,
One talks, the other knows.
In coach and six the first rolls round,
On foot his rival goes.

The cause is plain, why fate has made,
Such odds in their affairs;
One by the patient's self is paid,
The other by his heirs.

Dici che i versi non ti costan punto?
Ti costan quel che vaglion per l'appunto.

PANANTI.

Say'st thou thy verses cost thee nought at birth,
'Tis well, they cost thee then precise their worth.

Dell' umane miserie tu pingesti
Coi più tristi color le varie parti,
Ma fra tante disgrazie a noi tacesti
La peggior, che fu quella d'ascoltarti.

RONCALLI.

Well hast thou painted, reverend priest,
Those ills the fates to us decree,
Yet why neglect among the rest.
That worst of woes the hearing thee?

ELEGIA COLLINS, SUPER MORTE THOMSONI,

LATINIS REDDITA VERSICULIS.

En tumulo jacet hoc sylvæ nemorumque poeta,
Quem tacitis rivus reptans circumluit undis ;
Hic partes variæ volventis mensibus anni,
Munera spargentes ornabunt optima solum.

Densâ quâ fluvius prætexit arundine ripas,
Testudo spirans placide suppôsta quiescet ;
Pectore sic vulnus tacito si quis fovet ægrum
Dum spiritus maneat, luctum solabitur umbra.

Vespere et errantes pueri innuptæque puellæ,
Chordæ cum resonant, aurâ modulante secundâ,
Flamina captabunt, et credent pectore tristi
Sylvestris carmen vatis audire supremum.

Littoris atque animo jucunda subibit imago,
Floribus æstivis ripas cum Thamesis ornat ;
Deponet sæpe et patulos nauta æquore remos,
Manibus ac requiem placidam exóptabit amatis.

Aerios montes, riguos et visere valles
Cum juvat, et pacem colere et per rura salutem ;
Conspiciens silvis turrim tum candidam amicus
Effundet luctu lacrimas florentibus arvis.

Tu, quoque, quem gremio tellus complectitur alma,
Quid tibi nunc moesto prodest elegëia cantu ?
Aut lacrymae, quas dabit amor lugubris honosque,
Cymba qui gemitus advecti flumini ciunt.

Et fugit ullus nunc captus oculis animoque
Marmoreo cultum saxo præstare decorum ?
Nunquam illi faveant Musæ, divine poeta,
Deserat ac anno mentem florente voluptas.

Tu, cujus tristem, deserta heu ! Thamesis, undam
Naiades ornatæ nullæ nunc carice servant,
Flumine funestam collem prono sine linquam
Terra qua frigida claudit mihi cippus amicum.

Et valles tenui umbrosæ vix luce videntur,
Vesper nam inducens umbras velamine celat.
Nunc iterum vale, naturæ proles et amata !
Sit tibi terra levis ! salve, formose, valeque !

Quæ tibi erant olim cordi flaventia culta,
Viventi jucunda dolebunt morte peremptum ;
Pastor agrestis ibi tenera cum virgine flebit
Puris dum manibus cumulabit munera ruris.

Tempore post longo marmor aggestaque terra
Suffundet lacrimis oculos cum Britonis ægri ;
Lugete (inquiet heu valles, silvæque relictæ ;
Hoc vestrum tumulo clausum plorate poetam.

THE BOSTON REVIEW.

FOR

JUNE, 1808.

Librum tuum legi & quam diligentissime potui annotavi, quæ commutanda, quæ eximenda, arbitrarer. Nam ego dicere verum assuevi. Neque ulli patientius reprehenduntur, quam qui maxime laudari merentur. PLIN.

ART. 13.

The Life of George Washington, commander in chief of the American forces, during the war which established the independence of his country, and first president of the United States. Compiled under the inspection of the honourable Bushrod Washington, from original papers bequeathed to him by his deceased relative, and now in possession of the author. To which is prefixed an introduction, containing a compendious view of the colonies planted by the English on the continent of North America, from their settlement to the commencement of that war, which terminated in their independence. By John Marshall. Philadelphia, *printed and published by* C. P. Wayne. Vol. I, 1804, Vol. II, 1804, Vol. III, 1804, Vol. IV, 1805, Vol. V, 1807.

[*Continued.*]

WHEN we look back on what we have written, and recollect that we have only arrived at the commencement of the second volume of this work, we perceive that we have already made an alarming demand on the patience of our readers. The volumes however, which succeed, as we approach nearer the personal knowledge of Judge M. regularly rise in accuracy, eloquence, and interest, and at every step we find the task of examination growing lighter. We shall therefore in some degree, contract our original design, and make the remarks which we have to offer on the second grand division of the work, with all possible brevity.

In the second volume the life of Washington may be said to commence. All the circumstances of his birth, connexions, education and early habits, are narrated in somewhat less than a page and a half. This, we confess, excites our surprise and chagrin. We can scarcely think it possible, that tradition has preserved no record of any of the events of the private life of one, who, as it is evident from his early promotion, must have been considered as a youth of extraordinary promise. We regret therefore, that the occupations of Judge Marshall did not permit him to collect any of those anecdotes, which we take

for granted must exist, or that he could not find some American Boswell, who would relieve him of the task, and secure these fading memorials, which, if once suffered to be lost, can never be recalled. "Tradition," let us remember, "is but a meteor, which, if it once falls, cannot be rekindled." Cicero thought his discovery of the forgotten and neglected tomb of Archimedes, an event interesting and important enough to be introduced into one of the gravest of his philosophical disquisitions; surely therefore no man has a right to think it labour too humble for his talents, to investigate any circumstances, however minute, which may contribute to illustrate the character of Washington. There is scarcely any thing, which would give us greater pleasure than sit down to the examination of a work, which would acquaint us with the private habits of our hero; and notwithstanding any thing which has yet appeared, such a work is still altogether a desideratum. To the English edition* is annexed an account of the ancestors of Washington from the herald's office, which, as it supplies one of Judge M.'s deficiencies, and as we presume it is not very common among us, we shall extract; though, indeed, Washington is not a man whose fame can receive any additional lustre from any lineage however splendid.

"*Pedigree of Gen. Washington, communicated to the editor by Sir Isaac Heard, Garter King at Arms.*

"It is presumed, upon good grounds, that the late President Washington was descended from a very respectable family of the name, anciently established at Twitfield and Warton, in Lancashire, and afterwards lords of the manor of Sulgrave, in the county of Northampton.

"Sir William Washington of Packington, in Leicestershire, the eldest son and heir of Laurence Washington, of Sulgrave, Esq'r. married Anne, the half sister of George Villiers, duke of Buckingham.

"This Sir William had, among other younger brothers, two, named John and Laurence; and the latter appears to have been a student at Oxford, in 1622.

"John and Laurence Washington, brothers, emigrated from the north of England, (according to the tradition in the family of the President) and settled at Bridge's Creek, on the Potomack River, in the county of Westmoreland. John was employed as General against the Indians, in Maryland, and the parish in which he lived was called after him.* He was the father of Laurence Washington, gentleman, who died in 1697, leaving two sons, John and Augustine.

"Augustine died in 1743, at the age of forty-nine, leaving several sons by his two marriages. George, the President, was the eldest by the second wife, Mary Ball, and was born the 11th of February, 1732."

We have before hinted a wish that our author had given us a disquisition on the causes and grounds

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* We have examined both the quarto and octavo copies of this edition, and believe that it is incomparably the most incorrect book lately issued from the English press. To the American edition we can give the rare praise of being very accurate as well as extremely neat.

* This John had previously resided at South Cave, in the east riding of the county of York, upon an estate now the property and residence of H B. Barnard, esq. of Cave castle, South Cave, and he emigrated to America about the year 1657. ENGLISH EDITOR.

of the American revolution, and among other reasons because we should have been gratified with seeing on what principles so distinguished a politician as Judge M. would now defend the justice of it. Without pretending to have either thought or read much on the subject, it strikes us, that the plea on which it was usually rested at the time, that England could not justly claim the right of taxation, without allowing us to be represented in her Parliament, would not now be thought the most cogent. While we acknowledged ourselves to be subjects of Great Britain, and conceded to her the full right of legislation, it appears to us that we gave up the right of making this plea. Legislation includes all the powers of civil government, and none more clearly than that of taxation. The right to demand the protection of the civil power, and the obligation to support it are reciprocal and inseparable. As subjects of the British crown indeed, we had the right to representation, whenever the exercise of that right was practicable, but as the exercise of this right in our case was acknowledged to be impossible, we might lament the circumstance as an evil, but we had no right to complain of it, or any of its necessary consequences as a grievance. Taxation is no tyranny, even without representation, when circumstances are such as to make representation impossible. If this evil was insupportable, as certainly it would ultimately have been, *that* would have been a sufficient ground to justify a dissolution of our connexion, and a renunciation of all our rights as well as obligations as British subjects. But to acknowledge the general right to legislate, and to deny the application of it in a most essential particular, in our opinion, included an absurdity; and every act of opposition, therefore, *before the Declaration of Independence* was an act of rebellion. We shall not, we presume, be misunderstood. We are only questioning, as a mere matter of speculation, the theory on which our resistance was defended. We mean only to say, that there could be *no alternative between submission and independence*, and that the ground therefore, which was so universally taken in the early stages of the contest, was untenable and inconsistent. With regard to the general principle of the necessity of the revolution, there can be now no division of sentiment. No men can believe more firmly than ourselves, in the propriety and utility of that glorious event, or be more deeply penetrated with reverence and gratitude for the heroes and sages who effected it. That an immense continent should be governed by a power a thousand leagues distant, was too monstrous to be long supported; and the interest of England, quite as much as that of America, demanded the separation. If we were to offer to resume our ancient connexion with her tomorrow, every motive of policy would require her to decline it.

The events of the war are in general narrated with spirit and elegance. Judge Marshall's superiority to the historians which preceded him, consists principally in the greater fullness and exactness of his statements of political transactions. His narrative of the negociations with France and Spain is particularly luminous and interesting, and sufficiently displays the folly of supposing that we are under any obligations of gratitude to either of those nations, for espousing our cause. "Friendship," "generosity," "gratitude," &c. do very well

to make up the burthen of a state manifesto or to give spirit and roundness to the periods of an ambassador's correspondence : but every one who has observed ever so superficially the conduct of the cabinets of Europe, will see, that this is all the mere cant of diplomacy, and that the only principle which governs the intercourse of nations, is mutual interest.

We think Judge Marshall has also given us a better survey of the proceedings of Congress, than we have before seen, and enabled us to appreciate more fully the difficulties with which Gen. Washington was compelled to struggle. Yet even here we have been disappointed in our hope of finding a more ample account of the parties in Congress, their principles, views, &c. concerning which little correct information has hitherto been presented to the publick. If we mistake not, there is a great deal of curious and interesting information, which the world does not yet possess, respecting the first Congress, with which Judge M. does not furnish us, and which, if not preserved, must in a few years be irretrievably lost. We will indulge the hope, that he will hereafter find leisure to review and perfect his work, and that the task of preparing a new edition will form the dignified amusement of the evening of life.

We will indulge ourselves in extracting the following picture of the spirit displayed by Congress, in the most disastrous period of our history.

> The firmness manifested by congress throughout the gloomy and trying period which intervened between the loss of Fort Washington, and the battle of Pirnceton, entitles the members of that day to the admiration of the world, and the gratitude of their fellow citizens. Unawed by the dangers which threatened them, and regardless of personal safety, they did not for an instant admit the idea, that the independence they had declared was to be surrendered, and peace to be purchased by returning to their ancient colonial situation. As the British army advanced through Jersey, and the consequent insecurity of Philadelphia rendered an adjournment of congress from that place to one further removed from the seat of war, a necessary measure of precaution, their exertions seemed to increase with their difficulties. They sought to remove the despondence which was seizing and paralyzing the public mind, by an address to the states, in which every argument was suggested which could rouse them to vigorous action. They made the most strenuous efforts, too, to animate the militia, and impel them to the field, by the agency of those whose popular eloquence* best fitted them for such a service.
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> When reassembled at Baltimore, the place to which they had adjourned, their resolutions exhibited no evidences of confusion or dismay; and the most judicious efforts were made, by collecting as soon as possible a respectable military force, to repair the mischief produced by past errors.
>
> Declaring that in the present situation of things the very existence of civil liberty depended on the right execution of military powers, to a vigorous direction of which, distant numerous, and deliberative bodies, were entirely unequal; they authorized general Washington to raise sixteen additional regiments, and conferred upon him, for six months, powers for the conduct of the war which were almost unlimited.
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> When reduced to their lowest ebb, towards the close of 1776, while the tide of fortune was running strongest against them, some few members, distrusting their ability to make a successful resistance, proposed to authorize commissioners they had deputed to the court of Versailles, to transfer to that country the same monopoly of their trade which Great Britain had hitherto enjoyed.† This proposition is stated to have been relinquished, because it was believed that conceptions

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* *General Mifflin was on this occasion peculiarly useful.*

† *Ramsay.*

of this kind would destroy the force of many arguments which had been used in favor of independence, and, probably disunite the people. It was next proposed to offer a monopoly of certain enumerated articles of produce. To this the variant interests of the states were so directly opposed, that it received a speedy and decided negative. Some proposed offering to France a league offensive and defensive; but this also was rejected. The more enlightened members of congress argued that, though the friendship of small states might be purchased, that of France could not. They alledged that if she would risk a war with Great Britain by openly espousing their cause, it would not be so much from the prospect of direct advantages, as from a natural desire to lessen the overgrown power of a dangerous rival. It was therefore supposed that the only inducement likely to influence France to an interference, was an assurance that the United States were determined to persevere in refusing to return to their former allegiance. Under the influence of this better opinion, resolutions were again entered into, declaratory of their determination to listen to no terms founded on the idea of their resuming the character of British subjects; but trusting the event to Providence, and risking all consequences, to adhere to the Independence they had declared, and the freedom of trade they had proffered to all nations. Copies of these resolutions were sent to the principal courts of Europe; and proper persons were appointed to solicit their friendship to the new formed states. These dispatches fell into the hands of the British, and by them were published; a circumstance by no means unwished for by congress, who were persuaded that an apprehension of their making up all differences with Great Britain was a principal objection to the interference of foreign Courts, in what was represented to be no more than a domestic quarrel. A resolution adopted in the deepest distress, and in the worst of times, that congress would listen to no terms of re-union with their parent state, would, it was believed, convince those who wished for the dismemberment of the British empire, that it was sound policy to interfere, so far as would prevent the conquest of the United States.

The narrative of the events of the various campaigns, does not, as far as we observe, differ in any important particulars from that of preceding writers. The attack on Quebeck is narrated with more minuteness than by any other historian, and if it were not done with so much spirit, we should say that it occupies a greater space than its importance justifies. In the account of the defence of Long Island, and the battle of Brandywine, we think that our author has fallen into the usual failing of biographers, that of attempting to make his hero too faultless. In our opinion it would not be the slightest impeachment of the talents of Gen. Washington, if we were to admit that he was outgeneralled in both those affairs by Gen. Howe. When we recollect that neither he or his troops had ever before seen any regular service, we shall not be surprised, that in his first encounters, he displayed some inferiority to a veteran in European tactics. We have not the slightest pretensions to any knowledge of these subjects, but we confess that the statements of Mr. Galloway,* of the conduct of Sir William Howe, have strongly inclined us to believe that the American army was saved only by that general's want of enterprise. As Mr. G's pamphlet is rare, we will extract his summary of the charges against Gen. Howe for his conduct during the campaign of 1777. It is scarcely necessary to remind the reader that some of these representations are coloured by the prejudices of the ex-speaker of the assembly of Pennsylvania.

"It seems impossible for a candid inquirer after truth, however painful the task, not to take a brief

* Letters to a nobleman on the conduct of the war in the middle colonies.

and collected view of the errours of this campaign. The British General had declined taking the field, because the green forage was not sufficiently grown, although the country produced, and his magazines were stored with, dry and better forage. He had met his enemy at Hillsborough, and though possessed of treble his strength, he would not fight him, or even distress him, by passing the Delaware and taking his magazines. He preferred wasting on his *ill advised* voyage to the Chesapeak, three months of his valuable time, which, had they been wisely and vigorously employed, were more than sufficient to suppress the rebellion. He omitted to support General Burgoyne, or even to make a diversion on the coast of Massachusett's Bay in his favour, though he knew such was his Majesty's pleasure (*b*), and that either measure would have saved the northern army. And he took care not to suffer Sir Henry Clinton to perform those important services, by not leaving him sufficient force, though the rebel army, at that time, consisted of less than one third of his own effective force(*c*). And though experience had taught him, that as soon as the operations of the British army took place in the country, the people were so intimidated, that the rebel states attempted to recruit in vain, yet, as if determined to give the Congress and new states opportunity and time sufficient to reinforce their armies, he pursued the very measures which Washington himself would have advised for that purpose. He relinquished his operations already begun, and hid his high spirited army on the ocean. He declined his intended route up the Delaware, at a time when the city of Philadelphia and the fort at Mud Island were not able to oppose him ; and thus he gave the enemy full time to put the latter in the most perfect state of defence. He met Washington at Brandywine, on stronger ground, and with a force twice as great as that which he possessed at the mountain above Quibbletown, attacked, defeated, and dispersed his army ; and though that army was hemmed in on all sides by British troops, or impassable waters, yet he would not pursue the advantage. He met the same enemy at Goshen, and began the attack, but was diverted from certain victory by a shower of rain. He declined suffering the dykes on the province and Blackeley's Island to be repaired, though it was a work absolutely necessary to the taking of Mud Island fort. He refused to permit Colonel Stirling to take post at Red Bank, though it was the key to that fort, and without the possession of which the rebels could not have defended it a week. He supinely suffered himself to be surprised at Germantown, where the valour and activity of his troops, notwithstanding the surprise, gained a victory, as honourable to *them*, as ignominious to their General, who suffered the enemy to escape without effectual pursuit, when they were languid with fatigue, and despondding from their defeat. The same General after seeming to invite Washington to battle at White Marsh, pursued every measure that was likely to prevent, and omitted the only one that must inevitably have brought on an engagement."

We should have been pleased to have seen in Judge M. a willingness to admit the conclusion, which these

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(*b*) Letter from Lord George Germaine, August 6, 1777.

(*c*) British force 17,000 veteran troops, rebel force 8000 new raised, undisciplined men.

facts seem to force on us. We pay the highest compliment possible to the greatness of Washington's mind, when we display these things without disguise ; for we may then claim the admiration which that fortitude demands, which could bear up under so much difficulty and discouragement. The more we magnify the original superiority of the British army, the higher we exalt the merit of him, who ultimately succeeded in triumphing over it. Le vainqueur du vainqueur de la terre, adds to his own wreath all the laurels which his enemy had formerly won.

We have little more to remark on the second division of this work. We have observed many minor inaccuracies, which seem, however, rather the result of haste, than of want of information. He talks, for instance, vol. ii. p. 249, of "the Welsh mountains, near Cambridge" which are quite without our geography. He speaks too of "the troops falling down to the castle, in order to proceed from thence up the river to the scene of action, [Dorchester heights.] Vol. ii. p. 295 ; an errour which Mr. Ramsay has very innocently copied.

The list of similar inaccuracies, if we had been more solicitous to note them, might easily have been enlarged. We advance now to the last division of the work, in which Judge M. appears in the character of a completely original historian. With the indulgence of our readers, we shall reserve our remarks on it to a future number.

[*To be continued.*]

ART. 17.

Reports of Cases argued and determined in the Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts, from March 1806, *to June*, 1807, *both inclusive. Part* 2, *of Vol. II.* from p. 269 to 585. *Published by* William Sawyer & Co. Newburyport.

IN a former number we reviewed the first part of the present volume of Reports with considerable minuteness ; and with a view to engage the publick attention, we adverted to the principles of some of the judgments. At that time we professed, that we had no intention to question the propriety of any of those judgments, and avowed our cheerful acquiescence in the law of the land, as promulgated by the learned and impartial bench, to which is confided in the last resort the judicial authority of this Commonwealth. From the course, thus prescribed to ourselves, we feel no disposition to deviate ; and on the present occasion shall content ourselves with a few remarks, exacted by the perusal of the work before us.

Aware that the reputation of Reports must essentially depend upon the character of the Court, and the diligence and accuracy of the Reporter, we feel the impotence of transitory eulogy to obtain or to secure their permanent respect. The keen eyes of the accomplished barrister will easily detect the fallacy of unsound reasoning, and expose the errours of hasty precedents. The solid base of legal erudition presents the sole adamant, which can withstand the wasting power of time. Mistaken zeal and provincial partiality, may, for a while, foster an undeserved applause ; but the voice of flattery or of friendship will never reach the bench and bar of a future age, to direct or to silence their verdict. The juridical labours of our days will then receive a calm and dispassionate examination, and vindicate no title to respect beyond their just value and utility.

From considerations of this nature, we were induced to bestow our commendation on the former part of this volume with temperance, yet, we trust, with justice. On a revision, we find no reason to doubt the opinions then expressed; and if we did, the present work would completely dispel it. Whatever was anticipated from experience in the arrangement and abbreviations of the cases, or in the succinct display of the arguments of counsel, Mr. Tyng has performed with an ability that leaves little or nothing to regret. The opinions of the Court are in style and method improved; and as the novelty of the task wears away, it is easy to perceive that our judges are astute in the fluent and appropriate language of Westminster Hall.

We observe also a gradual change in the manner of delivering these opinions. Instead of several opinions delivered by every judge, that of the whole Court is pronounced by one, and generally by the Chief Justice. This method was adopted with approbation and success in the time of Lord Mansfield and Lord Chief Justice Willes; and their elaborate judgments have commanded the veneration of every sound lawyer. But of late years the former method has revived, as well in the King's Bench as in the Common Pleas; and with very few exceptions, we believe, that it prevails in the courts within the United States. Each method has its particular advantages; but perhaps in the maturity of legal establishments, that which gives cogency to the judgment by the weight of the reasons of every judge is to be preferred. We do not mean to intimate, that in this Commonwealth that course should be pursued. On the contrary, we are impressed with the propriety of the present arrangement, as combining convenience with utility.

A peculiarity more striking is the very comprehensive manner in which the leading questions before the Court are examined in their judgments. Of late, the object of the Courts in England seems to have been, to decide the single point, which involved the issue of the cause, and to leave all others for subsequent investigation. This practice may be very well suited to the jurisprudence of that country, where the principles of the common law are generally known, and the forms of actions and the provisions of statutes have received a settled construction; but in this Commonwealth, where many statutory regulations exist varying from the common law, and many eccentricities of practice have arisen from local circumstances, it is desirable that the great questions respecting them should receive an ample discussion and an unrestricted adjudication. Principles, as well as precedents, are thus matured to assist the inquiries of the student and to aid the deliberations of the Counsellor. It has been therefore with the greatest pleasure, that we have perused many of the opinions of the Court in the present publication, in which the doctrines respecting the nature of real actions, mortgages, covenants in the realty, and parochial and glebe lands are amplified and expounded with a technical elegance, and luminous exactness, worthy of the acute precision of Littleton, and the nervous sense of Holt. We might cite among others, as belonging eminently to this class, the opinions in Marston *vs.* Hobbs, Wheelwright *vs.* Wheelwright, Bickford *vs.* Page, Cook *vs.* Allen, Champion *vs.* Noyes, Erskine *vs.* Townsend, and Weston *vs.* Hunt.

We would suggest to Mr. Tyng the propriety of giving an analytical index, which should comprehend not only the points directly decided, but the doctrines thus incidentally stated and recognized by the court. Such an index, in our opinion, would be a most valuable addition to the Reports, and would very greatly abridge the labours of the profession.

We shall now take our leave of the volume, after giving our earnest recommendation in its favour, as reflecting honour on the Bar, the Bench, and the Commonwealth.

As specimens of the pleasantry, which may sometimes mingle with the solemnity of the forum, and of the sound logick, which is employed in juridical dissertation we subjoin the cases of Coffin *vs.* Coffin and Weston *vs.* Hunt.

MICAJAH COFFIN *vs.* WILLIAM COFFIN.

Trespass for an assault and battery, brought originally at the Court of Common Pleas in *Nantucket* county, and by appeal to this court. Upon the general issue pleaded the plaintiff had recovered a verdict in both courts, and now *B. Whitman* for the defendant, moves that judgment be arrested, on the ground that the declaration was insufficient. The supposed defect in the declaration was, that the plaintiff has declared in an action of trespass for an assault and battery by way of recital only, and has not directly alledged any trespass to have been committed, but has declared "*For that whereas*," &c.

Whitman, in support of the motion, observed, that it was more important, and especially in matters of practice, to be ascertained what the rule of law was, than why it had been so ruled. However trifling exceptions of the kind now taken might appear to those not of the profession, yet standing as he did in a court of law, where the necessity of a strict adherence to forms in judicial proceedings was well understood, he believed the objection would be gravely considered.

It is laid down by *Blackstone*, (1) that judgment is to be arrested, where the declaration is not sufficient in point of law to found an action upon. It is true, he says exceptions, moved in arrest of judgment, must be more material than such as will maintain a demurrer. But he adds, if the plaintiff sets forth a title defective in itself, such a defect is not cured by a verdict for the plaintiff, and no judgment ought to be rendered. Now here, it is conceived, the plaintiff has totally failed to entitle himself to his action, inasmuch as he has not directly alledged any trespass whatever.

The declaration must contain a certain affirmation, that may be traversed; if otherwise, it will not be cured after a verdict, because it is a defect in substance; as if the declaration be *quod cum* the defendant assaulted him, and the defendant pleads not guilty, here is nothing put in issue, for the pleadings have affirmed nothing; and though the defendant be found guilty, yet cannot the plaintiff have judgment, because nothing is directly affirmed. (2) And in *Hore* vs. *Chapman*, (3) *quare* is said to be much worse than *quod cum*. In *Amy n* vs. *Shore*, (4) there was one good count for an assault, and the second began *cumque etiam*; * entire damages were given, which the court said had always been taken as recital in these declarations; and for this the judgment was arrested. The case of *Wettenhall* vs. *Sherwin*, (5) being on a writ of error, is stronger than the case at bar. The other cases in the margin were also cited by *Whitman*. (6) But he relied principally on the decision of this court in the case of *Holbrook* vs. *Pratt*, (7) which was directly to the point. He said, he should not question the authority of the court to give a contrary opinion in the present case, but he humbly presumed they would not do this lightly; it being of more consequence that the law so far as it respected questions of practice,

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(1) 3 *Bl. Comm.* 393, 394.

* This sentence is evidently misprinted. ED. ANTH.

(2) 4 *Bac. Abr. Pleas and Pleadings*, B. 5.
(3) 2 *Salk.* 637.
(4) 1 *Str.* 621.
(5) 2 *Lev.* 206.
(6) *Dunstall* vs. *Dunstall*. 2 *Show.* 27.—*Marshall* vs. *Riggs*. 2 *Str.* 1162—*White* vs. *Shaw*. 2 *Wils.* 203—*Douglas* vs. *Hall*, 1 *Wils.* 99—*Dobbs* vs. *Edmunds*, 2 *Ld. Raym.* 1413.
(7) 1 *Mass. Term Rep.* 96.

should be settled, than in what manner it was settled.

Dexter, on the other side, observed, that the court would lean in favour of a verdict twice rendered upon the merits, and support it if possible. Though this declaration begins by way of recital, yet if there is a material part positively affirmed, the verdict may be supported. Here "*and other enormities did*" is well affirmed, and does not come in under the *whereas* or by way of recital. The cases, that have been produced in support of this motion, display a strong desire in the English courts to put this objection out of countenance, for the promotion of substantial justice; and this court will not indulge an adherence to what is merely formal, when such adherence goes to the perversion of sound principle. It has been understood, that the case of *Holbrook* vs. *Pratt* was a sudden determination of the court without argument: and however the court may conceive themselves bound by solemn decisions, made upon argument and consideration, hasty opinions delivered on the circuits seem by no means entitled to the same respect.

By the statute of Oct. 30, 1784, sect. 14, it is enacted, "that no summons, writ, declaration, process, judgment or other procedings in the courts shall be abated, arrested, quashed or reversed for any kind of *circumstantial* errors or mistakes, when the person and case may be rightly understood by the court, nor through defect or want of form only; and the court, on motion made, may order amendments."

The provisions of this statute are much more liberal than the English statutes of jeofails. The statute of 4 *Ann.* c. 16, which enjoins the judges to proceed and give judgment, according as the very right of the cause and matter in law shall appear to them, is expressly confined to cases, wherein a demurrer is joined. There are no expressions in any of those statutes, corresponding to the "circumstantial errors or mistakes when the person and case can be rightly understood by the court." The word *circumstantial* is not technical. Our best dictionaries give *accidental* and *minute* as synonimous to it, words which aptly enough apply to the mistake, of which the defendant in this action is endeavouring to avail himself. It will not be said, I trust, that by means of this word *whereas*, the court cannot rightly understand the person and case.

Whitman in reply. "Circumstantial" in the statute must refer to errors or mistakes in form only. But that this is substance and not form is very clear from its being held bad upon general demurrer, and in arrest of judgment. As well might the plaintiff have declared in debt for this assault and battery as in this mode by recital only. In the case of *Holbrook* vs. *Pratt*, the court held this defect to be substance, and this after our statute of amendment, which, by the way, does not change substance into form.

The opinion of the court was afterwards delivered as follows by

PARSONS, C. J. This is an action of trespass for an assault and battery, and a verdict has been found for the plaintiff upon the general issue. The defendant now moves in arrest of judgment for a defect in the declaration. The defendant was attached to answer the plaintiff in a plea of trespass, for that *whereas* the defendant, at the time and place mentioned, with force and arms committed the trespass complained of. It is said that this manner of laying the trespass is by way of recital, and not sufficiently certain and positive to admit of a legal judgment after verdict. A count in trespass of this form, when the proceedings were in latin, was called a declaration with a *quod cum*, *whereas* being substituted for *cum*. In examining the cases on this point, it is very certain that formerly declarations in trespass with a *quod cum* were holden bad, and that no judgment could be rendered thereon, even after verdict; and the defect was not considered as cured by any of the English statutes of amendment or jeofails. For many years past the judges in England have appeared dissatisfied with these decisions, and after several attempts it is now holden, that a declaration of this description filed in the Common Pleas is not bad, even on special demurrer. Much legal *astutia* is discovered in the reasoning, which has led to this conclusion. To explain it, it must be remembered that a count in the Common Pleas recites the writ, and this recital is considered as a part of the count. Thus in trespass for an assault and battery with a *quod cum*, the defendant is attached to answer the plaintiff in a plea, *quare* or wherefore with force and arms he assaulted and beat the plaintiff; whereupon the plaintiff complains *quod cum*, for that whereas the defendant assaulted and beat

the plaintiff, by which he hath damage to the sum of, &c.

The first attempt was made in the case of *Norman* vs. *George*.(8) The declaration was in the Common Pleas, and was trespass with a *quod cum*. The error assigned was, that the trespass was alledged by way of recital, when the charge ought to have been certain and positive. The defendant in error insisted, that, as the count inserted the writ, a reference to the writ aided the insufficiency of the charge. Of this Lord *Raymond* doubted, for if the recited original vary from the count, the court could not take notice of it, but by resorting to the original. He also observed, that a reference to the writ, as recited, would not amount to a positive allegation, for there it is *quare vi et armis*. No judgment however was given.

Four years after this, in the case of *Warren* vs. *Lapdon*, (9) in the Common Pleas, the declaration in trespass was with a *quod cum*, and a motion was made after verdict to arrest the judgment for this cause. But the court refused a rule to shew cause, being of opinion, that although *cum*, if it stood alone, might be bad, yet the recital of the original had helped it.

Notwithstanding the Common Pleas would not arrest the judgment for this defect, an attempt was made in the king's bench, in the case of *Douglass* vs. *Hall*,(10) to reverse a judgment of the Common Pleas for this error. But *Lee*, Chief Justice, thought the declaration with a *quod cum* well enough, as it referred to the writ, in which *quare vi et armis* was a sufficient averment. However *Dennison*, *J.* assumed a different ground. He would reject *cum* as surplusage after the merits had been tried, but thought it bad upon demurrer. No judgment was given.

Afterwards, in the case of *White* vs. *Shaw*, (11) in the Common Pleas, *whereas* had compleat success. A declaration in trespass with a *quod cum* was demurred to specially for that cause. The court observed, that, if the declaration had been in a bill in the king's bench, it might have been bad; but in the Common Pleas, the count is helped by setting out the writ in the declaration, and the plaintiff had judgment. Thus it is settled in the Common Pleas that *cum*, when referred to the potent word *quare*, amounts to a positive allegation. Yet if we look into the case of *Hore* vs. *Chapman*, (12) in the king's bench, we shall find a declaration in trespass, where *quare* is substituted for *quod cum*. But judgment was arrested after verdict, because *quare* is not positive but interrogatory, and much worse than *quod cum*. It is however settled in the Common Pleas, that by connecting the *whereas*, a word of recital, with the interrogative *why* or *wherefore*, there results a positive allegation: the reasons for this decision it is not expedient critically to examine. We perfectly understand Justice *Dennison*, when he observes, that, after the merits had been tried, "*whereas*" ought to be considered as surplusage, and no notice be taken of the officious intruder.

I have found no decision of the court of king's bench, since the proceedings were in English, on the effect of *whereas* in a count in trespass, when introduced in proceedings by a bill, in which is not contained the interrogative *why*.

Thus far we have considered the authorities in the books. The general rule, which governs in deciding on the forms of declarations in all cases, is that they should with sufficient certainty describe the *gravamen*, that the defendant may know what to answer. And certainty to a common intent is sufficient. But there is a greater strictness in the rule, in actions where the consequences of a conviction are penal to the defendant, than in others. In *assumpsit* it has been determined as long ago as the case of *Ernly* vs. *Ld. Falkland & al.* (13) that a declaration *quod cum super se assumpsit* is good after verdict. But the reason why in trespass it is not, is given in the case in *Fitzg.* 255, already cited. It is because, on a conviction in trespass, there is a judgment *quod capiatur* against the defendant. In this state a judgment of *capiatur* cannot be entered, and there is therefore no reason for requiring greater strictness in declarations in trespass than in *assumpsit*. There is also a difference in the form of the writ prescribed by our statute, and the common law form in the Common

(8) *Fitzg.* 255.
(9) 1 *Barnes' Notes*, 176.
(10) 1 *Wils.* 99.
(11) 2 *Wils.* 203.
(12) 2 *Salk.* 636.
(13) *Hard.* 1. 103.

Pleas. In the English form, the plaintiff, after alledging his damages, adds, "*and thereupon he brings suit*," &c. or proffers his witnesses. In our form, there is a material substitution of the affirmative words, "*which shall then and there appear.*" By our writ the defendant is attached to appear at a court named, there to answer to the plaintiff in a plea of trespass, for that *whereas* the defendant with force and arms at the time and place mentioned assaulted and beat the plaintiff, to his damage, &c. "*which at the said court shall appear.*" In this view of the declaration, can it be doubted, whether it is not certain to a common intent; or whether the charge be not positively, although not in technical form, affirmed?

To relieve parties from the consequences of objections to mere informality in legal proceedings, the statute of Oct. 30, 1784, besides vesting the court with a general power to order amendments on motions, enacts that "no summons, writ, declaration, process, judgment or other proceedings in court or course of justice, shall be abated, arrested, quashed or reversed for any kind of circumstantial errors or mistakes, where the person and case may be rightly understood by the court, nor through defect or want of form only." In the action before us, the person and case cannot be misunderstood by the court from the unnecessary use of the word "*whereas.*" Its insertion is a mere technical mistake in form, and not a substantial error. And we think with Mr. Justice *Dennison*, that it is mere surplusage, and after verdict shall rejected. It is not necessary to decide what judgment would have been given, had the defendant demurred specially to this declaration. But as it is a matter of practice, and the negligence or unskilfulness of attornies may again bring up the question, we are fully satisfied that as the mistake is merely formal and not substantial, a general demurrer would not avail the defendant. As we are not satisfied with the reason of the judgment in the case of *White* vs. *Shaw*, if the defendant should demur, and assign this mistake specially for cause of demurrer, we think the exception must prevail.

We are sensible, that this opinion is against the judgment of the court in the case of *Holbrook* vs. *Pratt*. By the present system of administering justice by this court, the Judges on the circuit have not time to deliberate, or to examine books on any subject. Under these circumstances it would be surprising, if a mistake were not sometimes made by the Judges. This apology which we make for others, we hope the candour of the public will allow to the present Judges.

Let judgment be entered according to the verdict.

Daniel Weston *vs.* Moses Hunt.

In this action the plaintiff demands possession of a lot of land in the township of *Gray*, in this county, which, he alledges, was, in the original division of the township, appropriated to the use of the minister of *Gray*, for the time being: that he was on the 26th of October, 1803, duly settled and ordained, as the minister of said *Gray*, and still so continues, "and ought by the law of the land to be in the quiet possession of said lot of land, and enjoying the use thereof without hindrance or molestation. Yet the said *Moses Hunt*, without right or judgment of law, hath entered into the said lot, and turned the said *Daniel* out of the possession of the same, and still holds him out. To the damage," &c.

The defendant pleaded not guilty, and upon trial before *Thatcher*, *J.* at some former term in this county, obtained a verdict. And now the plaintiff moves for a new trial, on what grounds does not clearly appear, but it may be presumed as on a verdict against evidence, the evidence being reported by the Judge, who sat in the trial of the cause. As the opinion of the court was not bottomed upon the particular facts reported, it is unnecessary to recite them here.

PARSONS, C. J. delivered the opinion of *the court*, as follows:

So far as we can collect from the declaration, the plaintiff demands the land described in his writ, as minister of the town of *Gray*, and in right of his town. After stating, very unnecessarily, the title, but without declaring on his own seizin, or the seizin of any predecessor, he concludes by averring, that he ought to have quiet possession, and that the defendant has turned him out of possession, whence by implication it may be inferred, that the defendant entered on him when in possession. Upon trial on the issue of not guilty, the Judge reports that it was admitted by the parties that the

plaintiff never had been in possession. Thus the part of the declaration that was most material was not proved, and the verdict for the defendant is right. Indeed if the verdict had been for the plaintiff, it is difficult to discover any legal principles, on which he could have had judgment upon his declaration; the nature of his remedy, if he had right, being totally misconceived.

By the provincial statute of 28. G. 2. c. 9. the ministers of the several Protestant churches were made sole corporations, capable of taking, in succession, any parsonage lands, granted to the minister and his successors, or to the use of the ministry. And no alienation made by any minister of any parsonage lands, holden by succession, shall be valid any longer than he shall continue minister; unless, being minister of some particular town, district or precinct, such alienation be made with the consent of such town, district or precinct; or being a minister of some Episcopal church, the alienation be made with the consent of the vestry.

The provisions of this statute, on this subject, are re-enacted by the statute of Feb. 20, 1786, on which rests the right of ministers, to hold parsonage lands, in succession, as sole corporations, and also the restriction of the alienation of their parsonages.

Ministers being thus made sole corporations, their rights and remedies are clearly defined by the common law. They stand on the same foundation, as to their parsonages, with all other sole corporations holding lands in succession, at common law.

The minister, holding parsonage lands in fee simple, holds them in the right of his parish or church; and therefore, on his resignation, deprivation or death, the fee is in abeyance, until there be a successor.

During the vacancy the parish or church have the custody, and are entitled to the profits of the parsonage.

If the minister alien with the assent of his parish, or of the vestry of the church, the alienation shall bind the successor: if without such assent, it will be valid no longer than he continues minister; and it will be no discontinuance of the estate, so as to drive the successor to his action, but he may enter.

An alienation of the parsonage by the town, district, precinct, or vestry is void: for if there be a minister, the fee is in him; or if there be a vacancy, the fee is in abeyance. And a corporation cannot acquire a freehold by a disseizin committed by itself.

Because the minister holds the parsonage in succession, in all legal proceedings he must claim it in the right of his town, district, precinct or church.

If the minister be, or his predecessor has been disseized, he may enter, if the right of entry be not taken away; or he may bring a writ of entry, declaring upon his own seizin, or upon the seizin of his predecessor, according to the nature of his case.

If his predecessor has aliened without the assent of his town, district, precinct, or church, he may have a writ of entry *sine assensu parochiae*, and in the writ he must declare on the seizin of his predecessor within *fifty* years, and this writ may be brought in the *per*, in the *per* and *cui*, or in the *post*. And the writ of entry *sine assensu capituli*, in the register, will be an authority for him.

The minister may also have his writ of right on his own seizin within *thirty* years, or on a disseizin done to, or an alienation without assent made by, his predecessor in which last case he may declare on the seizin of his predecessor within *sixty* years.

In examining the declaration in the case at bar, it is not supported by any of these principles nor by any other legal principle that occurs to us. If the verdict had been rendered in favor of the plaintiff, he could not have judgment, but as it is against him, judgment must be entered according to the verdict.

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* *As some of our readers may not possess the Registrum Brevium, we transcribe for their use the form of the writ here alluded to.*

" *Precipe A quod juste, &c. reddat B. episcopo de S. unum messuagium cum pertinentiis in N. quod clamat esse jus ecclesiæ suæ beatæ Mariæ de S. & in quod idem A. non habet ingressum nisi per H. cui R. quondam episcopus de S. predecessor predicti nunc episcopus illud demisit sine assensu & voluntate capituli sui &c.* See S. W. Fitz. Nat. Brev. 194.

ART. 18.

A Sermon preached on the day of General Election, May 25, 1808. *By* Thomas Allen, A. M. *Minister*

of the Congregational Church in Pittsfield. Boston, printed by Adams & Rhoades, printers to the State.

We should naturally conclude, that men would become adepts in any art, which they had long practised; and that what they are under the necessity of doing often, they would at length learn to do well. But this certainly is not the case with the divines of New-England, where, though more sermons are published than in any other part of the world, yet there are few, that bear the stamp of sterling merit. The cause of the general insipidity, which pervades these performances, we have not presumed to determine; whether it proceed from too strong an attachment to metaphysical pursuits in the writers, or from the narrowness of their circumstances, which, rendering manual labour indispensable, allows them no leisure for the cultivation of elegant literature.

The sermon of Mr. Allen is a flat, ill written performance; nor does it contain a single good sentence from beginning to end. It is, however, in general intelligible, and so far, Mr. Allen, as an author, is superior to Mr. Bentley, the orator of the last year.

The text is from 1 Tim. iv. 8. "Godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and that which is to come." On these words, Mr. Allen thus comments:

> An inspired apostle assures us in our text, that godliness is profitable unto all things; that religious obligation reaches every state and condition of life, even the most exalted.

With submission to Mr. Allen, the text says nothing like the latter clause of this sentence, and the whole meaning of the apostle is, that piety will be rewarded both in this life and the next. Mr. A. has a right to draw his own inferences from any text of scripture of the justness and propriety of which the publick are to judge, but he is not authorized in making the sacred writers say, what they have not said.

> Godliness in the human breast is a precious gift of heaven, it is an unction from the Holy One, a seal and earnest of the Spirit, a well of water springing up to everlasting life. It triumphs over every selfish consideration, inflexibly adheres to truth and duty, notwithstanding every discouragement, and opens the eyes to see the truth as it is in Jesus. It courts no man's favour, and fears no man's censure, so as to make shipwreck of a good conscience, and nothing can quench the sacred flame. p. 7.

Here godliness is transformed by the reverend orator into Proteus himself. It is a *gift*, an *unction*, a *seal*, an *earnest*, a well of *water*, and a *flame*.

> Omnia transformat sese in miracula rerum,
> Ignemque horribilemque feram, fluviumque liquentem.

> Pious rulers will be opposed to state establishments of religion, and to the imposition of creeds. They will give the people the benefit of their pure examples. Their veneration of the holy scriptures, their regard to the institutions of religion, their affection for the faithful ministers of the Gospel, their fear of God and constant sense of accountableness to him will give a lustre to their characters, which will shine around them. p. 12.

All this is highly applicable to our most virtuous and pious administration, and must be perused with delight by our exemplary president, and his accomplished secretaries.

> These principles brought our first fathers here. p. 13.

It should be *hither*. I go *thither*, and *there* should remain until it is time to depart *thence*, and return *hither*, and continue *here*, and go *hence*.

Though for the present our ships are shut up in our harbours to preserve them from capture, &c. p. 13.

To detain our ships in port to be worm eaten, in order to prevent their capture, is about as wise, as if we were to lock up our cloaks in a trunk to be moth eaten, lest by wearing them abroad, they might be stolen from a friend's entry, as it has sometimes happened. Ships and cloaks were designed for use; and if the former are not employed, and the latter worn, the money expended in their purchase is thrown away. To discover the wisdom of the embargo, we must borrow the spectacles of Mr. Jefferson, or those of Mr. Allen, his admirer, who thus proceeds in his panegyrick on our most excellent president.

The President of our country has for many years employed his talents in pursuing the public good, has displayed in life many virtues honorable to his character. p. 16.

The friends of Mr. Jefferson would have been more gratified, if Mr. A. had specified the virtues that adorn that eminent statesman and philosopher. Why did he not descant on his piety and attachment to christianity; on his unsullied chastity; on his inviolable integrity; on his personal courage, on the frankness of his disposition, and on the noble qualities of his heart. These virtues are truly respectable, and should not have been omitted on such an occasion in the enumeration of presidential accomplishments.

ART. 19.

Corinna, or Italy. *By Mad.* De Stael Holstein. Boston, Farrand, Mallory & Co. Belcher & Armstrong, printers. 2 vols. 12mo. 1808.

THIS work, though assuming the form of a novel, is of higher rank than most others of that name. The author has interwoven with her fable sketches of history, discussions of literary and moral topics, and pointed discriminating reflections, which raise the work much above the farrago of love, and absurdity, and ignorance, commonly denominated a novel. The fable is indeed, if not a secondary, a partial object of the performance, as the title seems to imply: It is therefore not greatly diversified with incidents.

Oswald, Lord Nelvil, a nobleman of Scotland, is the hero. He is designed as an example of the true national British character. Possessed of sensibility, taste, and nobleness of mind, but veiled by a reserve and seclusion of manners, heightened by the influence of unfortunate circumstances. In his travels in France, in the early period of his life, he had contracted an acquaintance with an artful and designing woman, whose character is depicted with much niceness of observation. This connexion, though exceedingly disagreeable to the father of Oswald, by the artful management of the lady, was continued for some time in spite of his disapprobation. A further developement of circumstances at length totally dissolved it, but not till the death of his father had ensued, hastened by his anxiety for the consequences. In this situation then we see Oswald, at the opening of the story, his health impaired and his feelings lacerated by remorse, on a

journey to Italy for the benefit of the climate. On his arrival at Rome, the first object he sees is the coronation of Corinna, at the capital; a ceremony, which in Italy has often been the reward of pre-eminent genius, and which is honoured by the names of Petrarch and of Tasso.—Her beauty, her grace, and the genius her performances displayed, captivated the heart of Oswald.—Corinna was then living at Rome in the full blaze of literary glory, her birth, her origin and even her name a profound secret. She had fixed her residence there about five years before, and by her talents alone acquired her celebrity. Oswald is soon acquainted with her, and a similar sensibility of disposition renders their affection mutual. No small part of the work is employed in describing the visits they paid in company to the palaces, the ruins, the antiquities, the statues, the pictures and the monuments of Rome. Corinna refuses for a long time to satisfy his curiosity respecting her name and quality. At length she informs him that she is the daughter of Lord Edgermond, the sister of Lucilia Edgermond, who had been designed by his father as the wife of Oswald. She relates her birth in Italy, her residence there for the first fifteen years of her life, and her passionate fondness for that country: that after the death of her mother, her father removed again to England, and married a second wife, the mother of Lucilia. She describes the disagreeable contrast between the manners of Italy and England: heightened by the uncommon reserve and rigidity of their family economy. After the death of her father and her arrival at the age of independence, this contrast became insupportable, and she resolved to quit her stepmother and settle in Italy. In the course of the narrative she mentions the intimacy of the families of Edgermond and Nelvil, and that she had herself been designed by the elder Lord Nelvil, for the wife of Oswald; but that he had altered his determination in favour of her sister. In consequence of this information, Oswald, to whom his father's wishes are a law, resolves to go to England, and examine the reasons of this determination; previously pledging his affections, and his hand if possible, to Corinna. On his arrival in England, he finds the objections of his father to have arisen from the eccentrick and elevated genius of the lady, which he thought unsuitable to his son's retired and domestick taste. This staggers his resolution, the beauty and modesty of Lucilia entice his affections, accidental circumstances prevent his hearing from Corinna, and he thinks her feelings altered. At this time Corinna, tortured by passion, had sailed to England, but finding the state of circumstances, without discovering herself or her journey, releases Oswald by letter from his engagements to her. He marries Lucilia, and Corinna returns to Italy, to expire in sorrow and despair; her genius faded, her imagination withered, and her spirit broken.

Poetical justice is thus not strictly adhered to in the denouement of the fable, but even this may inculcate a lesson of respect for the mild intercourse and the gentle and unobtrusive virtues of social life; for it exhibits the misfortunes of genius and the curse of sensibility indulged.

Delineations of national character are executed with the nice touches and the discriminating penetration of a master. Among many other characteristick remarks on the Italians, these may serve as an example.

There is somewhat mysterious in the

Italian character and imagination. You may perceive in it alternately the most unexpected traits of generosity and friendship, and the most gloomy and fearful projects of hatred and vengeance. In Italy there is no object of emulation. Life is there little more than a crowded dream, under a celestial sky: but give these people a substantial object and you would see in six months that all would learn and all understand. This remark certainly includes the women: but why instruct these, since the greater part of the men know nothing. They may perhaps isolate their hearts while cultivating their understandings; but these women would speedily become worthy of superiour men, did such become the object of their tenderness.

To all of the least classical taste or information, descriptions of the scenes of Italy have an irresistible charm. We are delighted to recognize those objects, which are connected with the most pleasing remembrances of childhood, with the pleasantest excursions of fancy, and the purest amusements of life. Hence this work cannot but entertain by its descriptions of the antiquities of Italy. When reading it, we seem to have returned home to those elegant temples and groves, where we walked in childhood. Every thing is familiar, and yet so illustrated either by beautiful reflection, or by lights drawn from the study of antiquity, that the patience is never wearied.

The talent of extemporaneous poetical composition, of which considerable notice is taken in the course of the book, is a distinguishing peculiarity of the Italians, owing principally to the melodious character of their language. With them, common conversation is musick; and an eminent degree of feeling and imagination fits its possessor for an improvisatrice. The exertion of this talent is by no means a fiction, nor is it unfrequently displayed. Metastasio the poet of love, as he is called by Madam de Stael, relates in his posthumous letters, that about the age of sixteen he was continually called on to produce verses extempore. That on these occasions, he was wrought up by the power of his feeling and the enthusiasm of poetry into a temporary inspiration, his eyes sparkled and his cheeks grew inflamed, that at last a regard for his health occasioned his friends to prohibit the exercise of this talent.

The principal objection against the value of the book, is the comparative insignificance, at which are rated the enjoyments of sober and rational society. Genius is a noble quality, and the pleasures it affords are transcendant and sublime; but for that very reason they are not calculated for continual use. They soon exhaust and fatigue the mind, which finds refuge joyfully in social intercourse. It is a fault then to speak lightly of the enjoyments of domestick life. It is the medium through which only the delights of genius and talent can be felt; and real goodness and suavity of temper are no small counterbalance for the want of brilliant and imposing accomplishments. Such a caricature of domestick society, asthat in Corinna's relation of her early life, is therefore unpleasing to a correct mind. It cannot, however, have a very bad effect, for solitude, however we may reason upon it, while enjoying society, is immediately felt on the transition; like the air, we scarcely perceive that we use, though we cannot live in its absence. Allowing however for the characters in whose mouths they are put, these sentiments are not very obnoxious, and the ultimate impression is somewhat removed by the catastrophe.

We have said nothing of the style of this work, as we have viewed it only through the medium of a trans-

lation. Of this we can only observe that it is no small recommendation to show even in this faint transcript so many beauties. Purity of language is perpetually violated by a recurrence of French idioms and affected phraseology.

We take this opportunity to correct from good authority a mistake which has found its way into the publick prints, respecting the author of this work. Madame de Stael was not banished from Paris for any obnoxious passages contained in Corinna. Her crime was that she made her house a place of rendezvous for a society of disaffected citizens. The officer of police informed her, that she must abolish this plan, or submit to leave Paris. She chose the latter, and is now resident in one of the provinces.

ART. 20.

The Embargo, or Sketches of the Times, a Satire. By a youth of Thirteen. Boston, printed for the purchasers. 1808. 12mo. pp. 12.

IF this poem be really written by a youth of thirteen, it must be acknowledged an extraordinary performance. We have never met with a boy at that age, who had attained to such command of language and to so much poetick phraseology. Though the poem is unequal, and there are some flat and prosaick passages, yet is there no small portion of fire and some excellent lines. The following passage is written with strength and spirit.

Much injur'd Commerce! 'tis thy falling cause,
Which, from obscurity, a stripling draws;
And were his powers but equal to his zeal,
Thy dastard foes his keen reproach should feel.
Curse of our nation, source of countless woes,
From whose dark womb unreckon'd misery flows,
Th' embargo rages like a sweeping wind,
Fear low'rs before, and famine stalks behind.
What words, oh, Muse! can paint the mournful scene,
The saddening street, the desolated green;
How hungry labourers leave their toil and sigh,
And sorrow droops in each desponding eye!

We regret that the young poet has dared to aim the satirick shaft against the breast of our most excellent President. But, as the lines are a good specimen of the author's powers, we cannot resist the temptation of quoting them, conscious that the first magistrate of this country, secure in the impenetrable armour of moral rectitude, "smiles at the drawn dagger, and defies its point."

When shall this land, some courteous angel say,
Throw off a weak, and erring ruler's sway?
Rise, injur'd people, vindicate your cause!
And prove your love of Liberty and laws;
Oh wrest, sole refuge of a sinking land,
The sceptre from the slave's imbecile hand!
Oh ne'er consent, obsequious, to advance
The *willing vassal* of imperious France!
Correct that suffrage you misus'd before,
And lift your voice above a congress' roar?
And thou, the scorn of every patriot name,
Thy country's ruin, and her council's shame!
Poor servile thing! derision of the brave!
Who erst from Tarleton fled to Carter's cave;
Thou, who, when menac'd by perfidious Gaul,
Didst prostrate to her whisker'd minion fall;
And when our cash her empty bags supplied,
Didst meanly strive the foul disgrace to hide;
Go, wretch, resign the presidential chair,
Disclose thy secret measures foul or fair,
Go, search, with curious eye, for horned frogs,

'Mongst the wild wastes of Louisianian bogs;
Or where Ohio rolls his turbid stream,
Dig for huge bones, thy glory and thy theme;
Go scan, philosophist, thy ****** charms,
And sink supinely in her sable arms;
But quit to abler hands, the helm of state,
Nor image ruin on thy country's fate!

If the young bard has met with no assistance in the composition of this poem, he certainly bids fair, should he continue to cultivate his talent, to gain a respectable station on the Parnassian mount, and to reflect credit on the literature of his country.

ART. 21.

Lectures on the Catechism, on Confirmation, and the Liturgy of the Protestant Episcopal Church. By James Abercrombie, D. D. Printed at Philadelphia. 1808.

THE reputation of Dr. Abercrombie, as an excellent man and an eloquent preacher, has reached us; nor will it suffer by the present publication, which we recommend not only to episcopalians, but to unprejudiced christians of all denominations. This work comprises fifteen lectures on subjects generally acknowledged important, nor does the Doctor meddle with the divine right of episcopacy, or the validity of presbyterian ordination. We regret that this ridiculous controversy has been revived at New York by the 'puny whipsters' of modern theology, in which the great ecclesiastical gladiators of former times, left the victory undecided. Great and good men have adopted different modes of faith and worship, nor can the mere forms of religion be of much importance. We abhor bigotry, whether in an episcopalian, or a dissenter, in a trinitarian or an unitarian. If revelation were clear on these subjects, there could be no dispute. But since they are involved in obscurity, let every one adopt that system, which he thinks on the whole most eligible, nor presume to censure the creed of others, who may be as sincerely pious, and as learned as himself. The man who first attacks the mode of worship adopted by another, is in fact the bigot, and will be avoided by all prudent men.

Hic niger est, hunc tu Romane caveto

For modes of faith let graceless zealots fight,
His can't be wrong, whose life is in the right.

RETROSPECTIVE NOTICE OF AMERICAN LITERATURE.

ARTICLE 3.

M. T. Cicero's Cato Major, or his Discourse of Old Age, with Explanatory Notes. Philadelphia, printed by Benjamin Franklin. 1744. 4to. pp. 159. *(Continued.)*

THIS treatise of Cicero affords little to exercise the sagacity of a critick, or to interrupt the progress of a translator. Like all his writings on subjects not obscure in themselves, it hardly presents a difficult passage to delay the reader; and therefore from this translation of Mr. Logan it is not very easy to ascertain the accuracy of his knowledge of Latin. The notes are en-

tirely historical, illustrating no obscurities in the text, and offering no comparisons of various readings. The edition which he used it is impossible to determine; though he appears not to have availed himself of that of Grævius, which was the best of that time. Instances in which he appears to have erred through ignorance of the force of individual words are not numerous; the following are the most important. The word *inhumanus* (sect. 3.) he has rendered *inhuman*, a term which in this place by no means conveys the meaning of the original. Cicero is speaking of the defects of old men, and one is that they are unsociable, and indisposed to join in the amusements of others. "*Inhumanus* dicitur, says Ernesti, qui in convivio meditatur attentius, quod alienum est ab homine &c."

In the tenth section Cato says of himself, that he "was never denied to any who came to consult him. Nemo ad huc convenire me voluit, cui fuerim occupatus." This Logan has unaccountably rendered, "no man ever yet found me quite idle." He must have followed the reading of Manutius, *quin* fuerim occupatus, who quotes from the treatise de Officiis this saying, numquam minus otiosum, quam cum otiosus, nec minus solum quam cum solas, of which the famous inscription of Sir Henry Wotton, (I think,) over his study door, *never less alone, than when alone*, is little more than a translation.

In the eleventh section, Cicero mentions it as a circumstance highly honourable to old age, when, *nemini emancipata est*. The difficulty of the expression has been felt by the commentators, and Logan appears to have thought it most prudent to give it no translation. We should have thought *mancipata* the proper word, but the criticks tell us, "liber homo est suæ potestatis; itaque cum se *emancipare* dicitur, intelligitur è potestate sua abire, non amplius suus esse, alienus fieri, &c. This legal subtlety of the language Logan appears not to have understood.

In relating the story of Lucius Flamininus in the twelfth section, a story too odious to be here repeated, he appears to have been ignorant that *scortum* is used to signify both sexes, and of course has considerably diminished the detestable nature of the transaction; and has at the same time pretended to discover a disagreement in the story between Cicero and Livy which does not exist.

At the beginning of the fourteenth chapter, Cato observes, that, old as he was, he found a sensible pleasure in the protracted entertainments of his friend. The word he uses is *tempestivis conviviis*, which many of the commentators have ignorantly interpreted to mean, regular, and seasonable feasts, and Logan has fallen into the same errour. The truth is that the Romans in the more pure and frugal ages of the republick used to defer their principal meal, which we should call their dinner, till a late hour in the day; but as luxury increased, the hour of dining was continually anticipated, that their meals might be the longer protracted, till at last, contrary to modern custom, they dined at the unfashionable hour of one o'clock. Hence the word *tempestivis* came to denote an early, and of course a luxurious entertainment. It would seem that this meaning of the epithet was not understood, till it was settled by the laborious Salmasius, in one of his learned notes, and the grammarians were forced to acquiesce in this reading, which in many instances they had ignorantly attempted to alter to *intempestivis*. We make this remark, because we

find that Adams, in his admirable work on Roman antiquities has fallen into the same mistake.

Our translator has discovered also his ignorance of a Greek word in the last book of the Odyssey, v. 226 where λισσαίνοντε is used. It means *pruning*, and not *levelling*, and Logan in correcting a mistake of Cicero, has fallen into one of his own. Once more; after relating the speech of Cyrus on his death bed, when he expresses his hopes of immortality, Cicero concludes, "Cyrus quidem hæc moriens, *Nos, si placet, nostra videamus.*" This Logan has rendered "and now to mention some of our own people;" whereas the meaning undoubtedly is, as Melmoth has given it, "permit me now to express my own sentiments."

These are the principal instances in which Logan appears to have discovered a want of intimacy with the language, and surely his sins of ignorance are very few. He has frequently, however, mistaken the meaning of passages, through mere inattention; and some of these sins of negligence we proceed now to note.

[*To be continued.*]

CATALOGUE

OF NEW PUBLICATIONS IN THE UNITED STATES,

FOR JUNE, 1808.

Sunt bona, sunt quædam mediocria, sunt mala plura.....MART.

NEW WORKS.

An Address delivered before the Massachusetts Charitable Fire Society, on Friday, May 27, 1808. By Charles Paine, esq. Boston, printed by Russell & Cutler.

A Sermon delivered May 26, 1808, in Brattle Street Church, Boston, before the convention of the Congregational Ministers of the commonwealth of Massachusetts. By Daniel Chaplin, A. M.

No. III. of the Minor Novelist, containing, The Shrubbery, a tale; and The Cure for Jealousy. Published by Wright, Goodenow and Stockwell, Boston, and Troy, (New York.) price 12 1-2 cents.

The Trust, a comedy, in five acts. By Mr. Charles Breck, of Philadelphia. New York. D. Longworth. 31 cents.

Federalism Unmasked; or a Vindication of the General Government, on the cause of the Embargo, and its kindred measures; in reply to the Letter of Timothy Pickering, esq. addressed by him to his excellency James Sullivan, governour of the state of Massachusetts. By a citizen of New York. Price 1 shilling.

A Sermon delivered at the Installation of the Rev. James Miltimore, to the pastoral care of the 4th church in Newbury, April 27. By Joseph Buckminster, D. D. pastor of the 1st church in Portsmouth, (N. H.)

A Treatise on Trigonometry and Navigation, containing an explanation of their principles and tables, and a new method of working trigonometry by memory. By Richard Burroughs. New York. Alsop, Brannan and Alsop. Price 75 cts.

The Militia Officer's Assistant, containing forms of orders, notices, returns, and other proceedings, previous to and at company meetings and company Courts Martial, &c. &c. By an Officer of the Third Brigade. Baltimore. 37 1-2 cents.

A Sermon delivered at the opening of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States, at their late sessions in this city. By the rev.

Archibald Alexander, pastor of the Presbyterian church, in Pine street, Philadelphia. Hopkins and Earle, Philadelphia.

A Sermon delivered by the appointment of the committee of Missions of the General Assembly. By John B. Romeyn, A. M. Pastor of the Presbyterian church in Albany Philadelphia, Hopkins and Earle.

The Embargo, or Sketches of the Times, a satire. By a Youth of Thirteen. Boston. 12mo. pp. 12.

The Embargo and Non Importation Laws, with their various supplements, collected at the request of several merchants. Philadelphia, published by T. Hope. 25 cts.

The Drummer's Assistant; containing instructions for beating the English and Scotch duties, with the calls, marches and tattoos. By S. Holyoke.

Horrors of Slavery; or the American Tars in Tripoli. Containing an account of the capture and loss of the frigate Philadelphia, treatment and sufferings of the prisoners, description of the place, manners, customs, &c. of the Tripolitans, publick transactions of the United States with that regency, including gen. Eaton's expedition. The whole interspersed with remarks, anecdotes and poetry, on various subjects. Written by William Ray, during nineteen months' imprisonment and vassalage among the Turks. Price 1 dollar 12½.

A Sermon, preached before his excellency James Sullivan, esq. governour, his honour, Levi Lincoln, esq. lieut. governour, the honourable Council, and both branches of the Legislature of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, on the day of General Election, May 25th, 1808. By Thomas Allen, A. M. minister of the congregational church in Pittsfield. Boston, printed by Adams & Rhoades, printers to the state. 8vo. pp. 19.

A Sermon, preached before the members of the Female Charitable Society of Newburyport, May 17, 1808. By Elijah Parish, D. D. pastor of the church in Byfield. Published at the request of the Managers. Newburyport, published for Thomas & Whipple. E. W. Allen, printer. Price 12½ cents.

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NEW EDITIONS.

Poems, by Thomas Romney Robinson, written between the age of seven and thirteen. To which is prefixed a short account of the author, by a member of the Belfast Literary Society. First American, from the Belfast edition; embellished with a likeness of this extraordinary child. Philadelphia. Bradford & Innskeep. price 1 dollar.

Britain Independant of Commerce, or Proofs deduced from an investigation into the true causes of the wealth of nations, that our riches, prosperity and power, are derived from sources inherent in ourselves, and would not be affected even though our commerce were annihilated. By William Spence, F. L. S. First American from the Fourth London edition, corrected and enlarged. Inskeep and Bradford, New-York, and Farrand, Mallory & Co. Boston.

A Winter in London: or Sketches of Fashion; a novel, in two volumes. By T. S. Surr. Philadelphia. price 2 dols.

Female Quixotism: exhibited in the romantic opinions and extravagant adventures of Dorcasina Sheldon. Two volumes complete in one. Second edition. Thomas & Whipple, Newburyport. pp. 394. price 1 dollar, 25 cents.

A Platform of Church Discipline, gathered out of the word of God, and agreed upon by the Elders and Messengers of the churches assembled in the Synod at Cambridge, in N. E. to be presented to the churches and General Court, for their consideration and acceptance in the Lord, the eighth month anno 1648. Boston, printed by Belcher and Armstrong. 12mo. pp. 70. price 25 cents.

An Address to young Persons, by Richard Watson, Lord Bishop of Landaff. Oliver & Munroe. pp. 72. Price 20 cents.

The Progress of Love, a Poem. By Martin Kedgwin Masters. Oliver & Munroe, Boston. pp. 108. Price 50 cts.

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WORKS IN THE PRESS.

Collins & Perkins, New York, have commenced an American edition of Bell's Principles of Surgery. The English edition sells at 60 dollars. The American edition, it is intended, shall be equal in every essential point, and be rendered at less than half that price.

In the press of Manning and Loring of this town, Doddridge's Lectures on Preaching, and the various branches of the ministerial office; in 1 vol. 12mo.

Thomas and Whipple of Newburyport, have in the press, The Village Curate, a poem. By J. Hurdis, B. D. Pro-

fessor of Poetry in the University of Oxford. Second edition.

A collection of Psalms and Hymns for publick worship; by the Rev. Mr. Emerson, is in the press of Messrs. Munroe, Francis and Parker; of this town.

WORKS ANNOUNCED.

Mr. Davis, of Petersburg, Virginia, has issued proposals for publishing by subscription an Indian Tale, entitled the Massacre of the Virginian Planters.

F. Nichols, Philadelphia, proposes to publish, Elements of General History, antient and modern, by Alexander Frazer Tytler. 8vo. price to subscribers, 2 dols. 50 cents.

Cushing & Appleton, Salem, intend shortly to publish the Anatomy of the Gravid Uterus, with Practical Inferences relative to Pregnancy and Labour. By John Burns, Surgeon of Glasgow.

Also, Practical Treatise on various Diseases of the Abdomenal Viscera. By C. R. Pemberton, M. D.

INTELLIGENCE.

LITERARY AND MISCELLANEOUS.

ON THE MANGANESE FOUND IN VERMONT.

Gentlemen of the Anthology,

Mr. Geo. Higginson has transmitted to me a mineral, sent to him by the superintendant of the iron works of Monkton, in the state of Vermont.

This mineral is the *black oxyded Manganese Haüy;* its colour is a dark greyish black, its texture compact, it is formed in orbicular, or mamillary concretions, the interstices of which are coated with the same substance chrystalized in small rhomboidal, four sided prisms of a lustre and colour like polished steel.

Experiments, to which I have submitted it, indicate that it exists almost free of extraneous matters, and in an high degree of oxydation.

According to the information communicated to me by Mr. Higginson, it forms a powerful stratum of about two or three feet thick, from whence may be inferred that it is sufficient to set America free from the necessity of importing a substance, which is of some importance in several manufactures.

This mineral is accompanied with a yellowish brown clay, strongly impregnated with oxyd of Manganese, which may be employed in the manufacture of pottery ware. I have obtained from it, and shewn to several gentlemen of this town, a kind of pottery very much resembling the black pottery of Wedgewood.

NOTE. *Manganese is found also in the vicinity of Boston, (7 miles south) but in too small a quantity to be considered an object of utility.*

S. GODON.

NEW SYSTEM OF NOTATION.

We understand from Mr. Pelham, that his System of Notation applied to Johnson's Rasselas has been several weeks in the press, and will, in a few days be ready for publication. The time, labour, and expense necessary to produce this specimen of a new kind of printing have much exceeded the first calculations. This circumstance, however, we are assured has only increased the author's desire of rendering the work acceptable to his subscribers and the publick, and by no means diminished his attention to the neatness and correctness of the typographical execution.

EDITORS' NOTE.

IN former numbers of the Anthology, we have published several articles of Intelligence, which we selected from the Medical Repository, a work deserving high commendation, published in New-York. As many of the articles, particularly one respecting Col. Gibbs' grand cabinet of Minerals, and the account of the American Tourmaline, which was mutilated by a mistake of the printers, without the knowledge of the editors, have been republished in several newspapers in various parts of the United States, and the Anthology quoted as their authority, we feel it our duty to make this acknowledgement.